Venus Versus Virus

6

Seven Seas

THE TRUE WORLD AWAITS!

Lucia is left reeling when she discovers not only that her father, Lucif, is still alive, but he's responsible for her mother's death and the abduction of Lola's twin Layla! Meanwhile, Sumire has her own shock to deal with, as she fears the worst about her boyfriend Yoshiki whose whereabouts are unknown after his battle with Sonoka. Revelations abound as the stage is set for the ultimate showdown between the crew of Venus Vangard and their mysterious enemy, Aion.

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Seven Seas

Illustrated by Atsushi Suzumi

Venus versus Virus

★ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス★

VOLUME 6

story & art by Atsushi Suzumi

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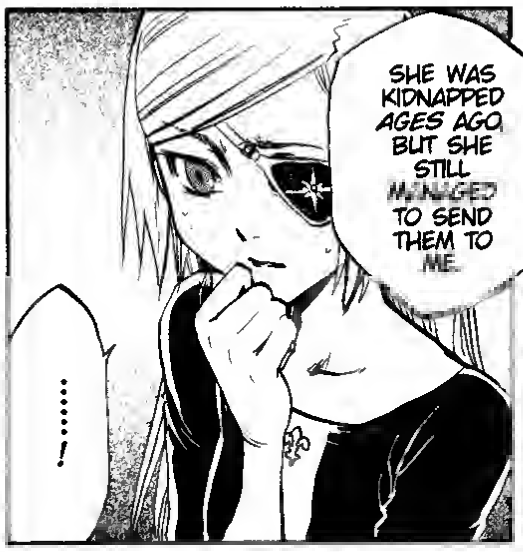
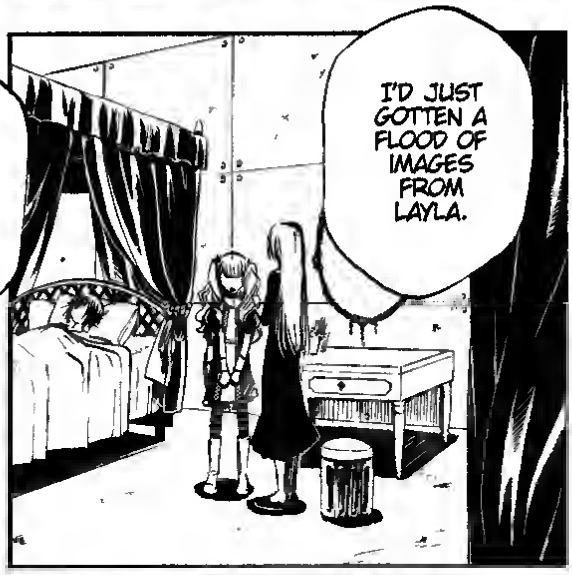
LUCIA!!
WHEN I CAME IN...
LUCIA!
BAM!


SHE WAS KIDNAPPED AGES AGO. BUT SHE STILL MANAGED TO SEND THEM TO ME.
.....!


I'D JUST GOTTEN A FLOOD OF IMAGES FROM LAYLA.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HEAR ANY WORDS FROM LAYLA...
BUT SHE SENT ME WHAT SHE WAS SEEING.
SO I WAS ABLE TO PINPOINT SUMIRE'S LOCATION.

SHE WAS IN A ROOM SOME-WHERE...
LOOKING AT A MIRROR THAT SHOWED SUMIRE.

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
LUCIA?
HM...?
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...?
HE'S ALIVE...
THAT... THAT BASTARD LUCIF IS ALIVE?!
?!
HELLO?
TWITCH
HN...?!
KNOCK
KNOCK

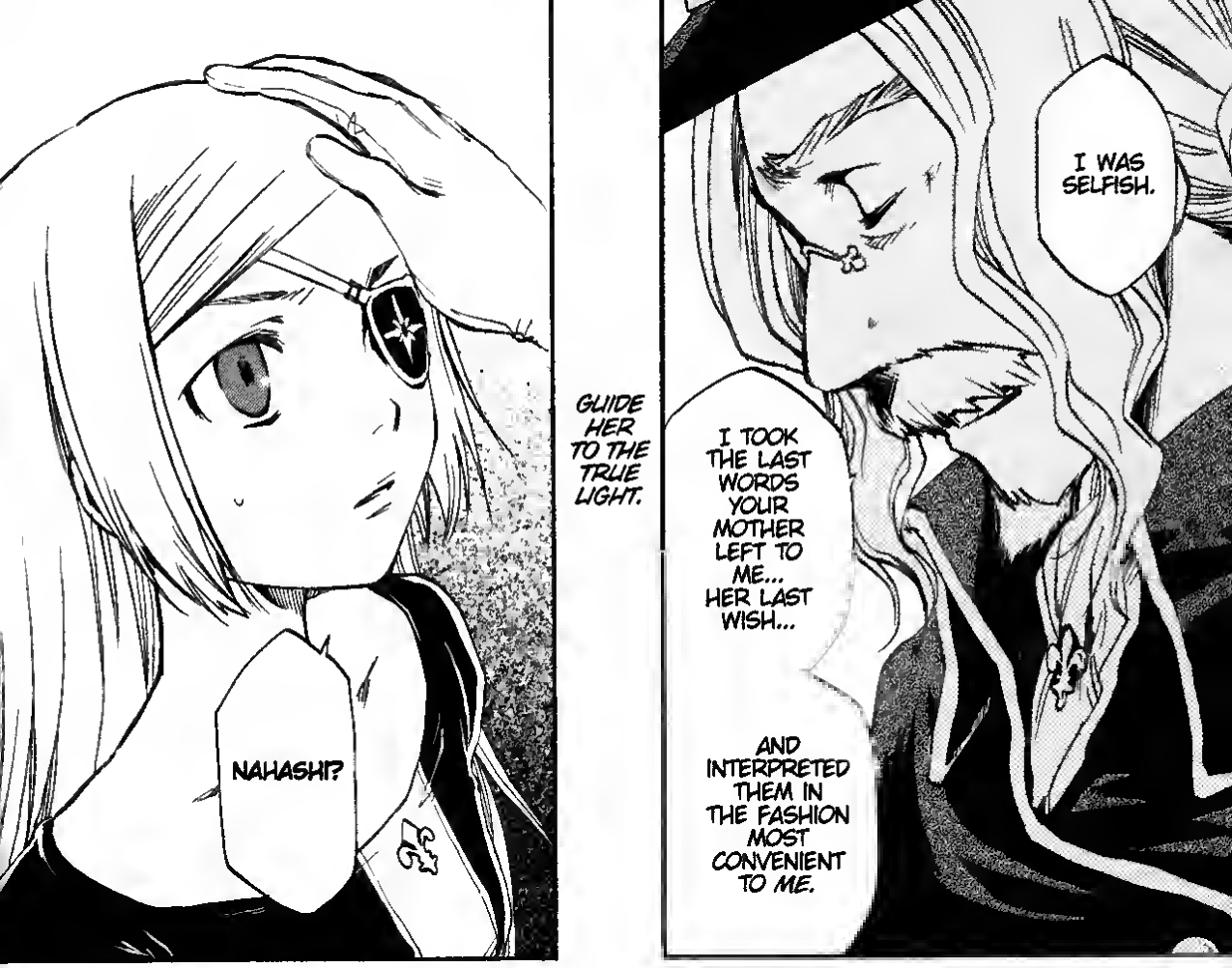
Piece 23
MASTER AND STUDENT. ENDINGS.

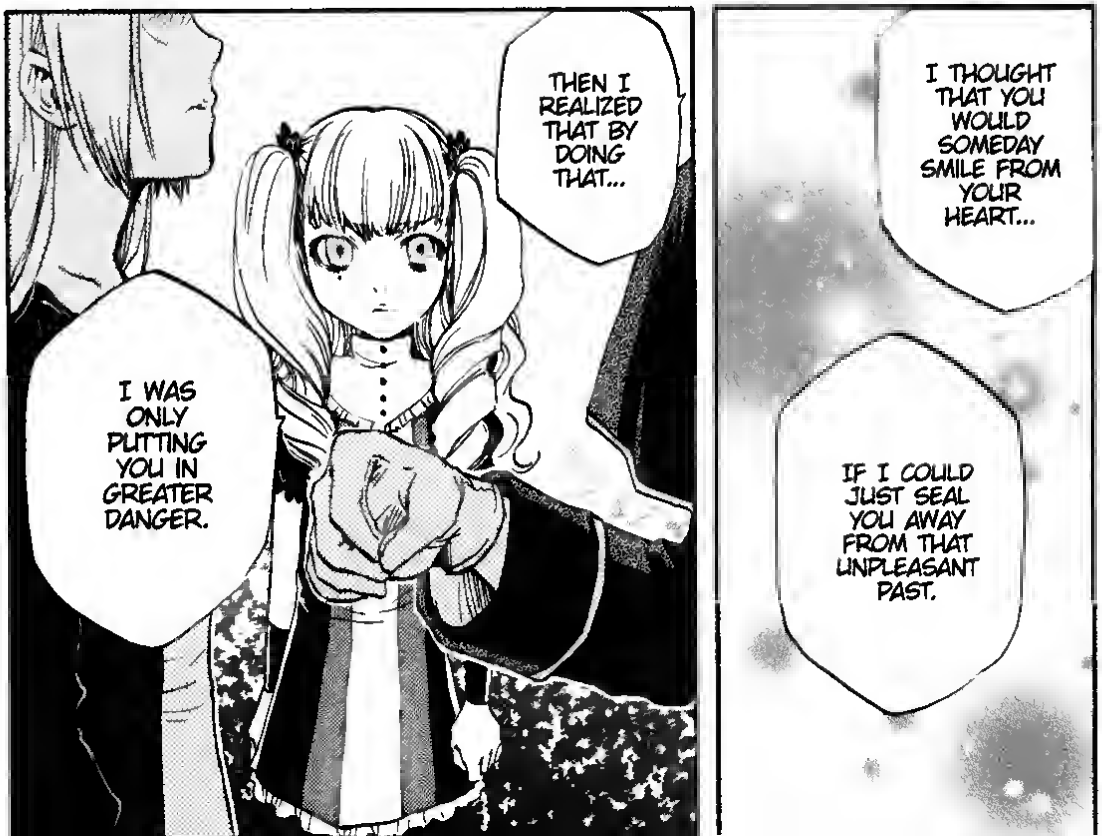
WHO...
NAHASHI ...?!
GLARE
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
WAIT. FORGET THAT.
WHEW!
WHEN DID YOU--
HE'S ALIVE...
MY FATHER IS STILL SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD, EKING OUT HIS MISERABLE, PATHETIC EXISTENCE, AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?!
LUCIA...
YANK
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT ANY OF THIS?!
STOMP
STOMP

YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT THIS TIME.
HN...
I KNEW IT.
I THOUGHT I WAS DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR YOU.
I... TRULY AM SORRY, LUCIA.

I WAS WRONG.
PERHAPS I WAS SIMPLY LYING TO MYSELF SO THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE TO REVISIT A BLACK, PAINFUL MEMORY.
I DID NOT WANT TO SEE YOU HURT.
KEEPING QUIET SEEMED THE BEST COURSE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
BUT...
THAT DAY...
THAT SHARD OF A NIGHTMARE BECAME REALITY...
AND THE TRUTH IT POINTED TO...
WAS TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

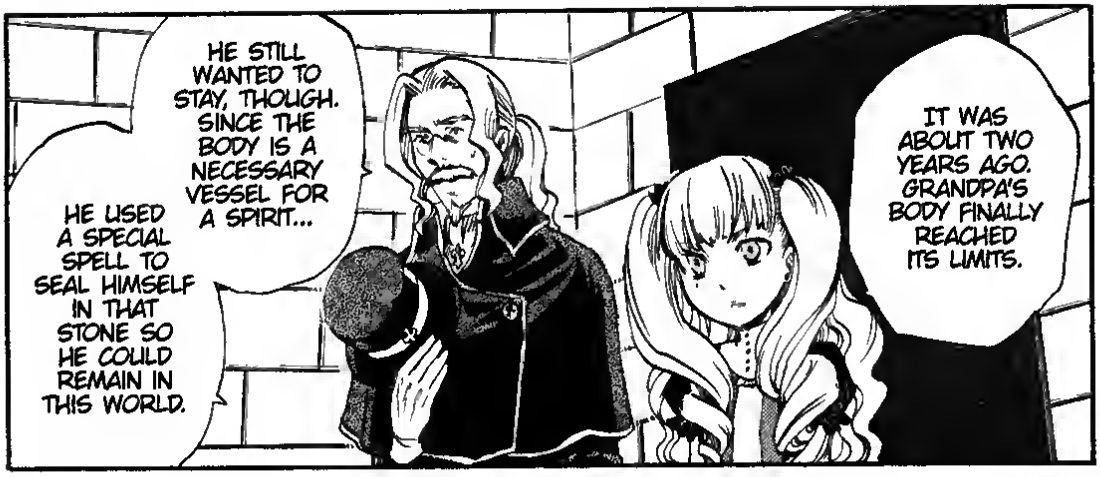
NACHASH...
PLEASE...

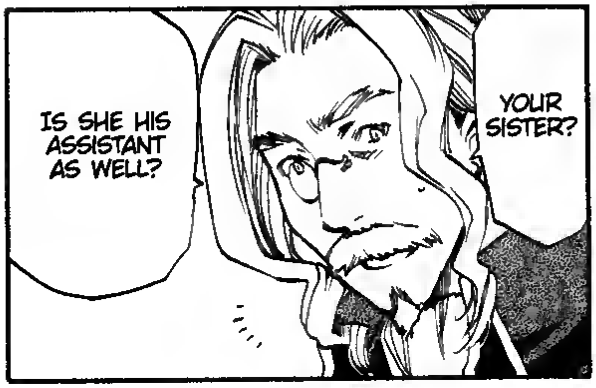

I WAS SELFISH.
I TOOK THE LAST WORDS YOUR MOTHER LEFT TO ME... HER LAST WISH...
AND INTERPRETED THEM IN THE FASHION MOST CONVENIENT TO ME.
GUIDE HER TO THE TRUE LIGHT.
NAHASHI?


I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD SOMEDAY SMILE FROM YOUR HEART...
IF I COULD JUST SEAL YOU AWAY FROM THAT UNPLEASANT PAST.
THEN I REALIZED THAT BY DOING THAT...
I WAS ONLY PUTTING YOU IN GREATER DANGER.

THAT IS WHY I DECIDED TO RETURN TO THAT COUNTRY AND MY ALMA MATER.
YOU...!
YOU ARE THAT GIRL FROM--!!
WSH
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THOUGHT THE PROFESSOR WAS SINGLE
HIS... GRAND-DAUGHTER ...?
WELL, OFFICIALLY, I'M HIS FOSTER-DAUGHTER.
MY NAME'S LOLA.
I'M PROFESSOR DERMEIL'S GRAND-DAUGHTER AND ASSISTANT.
ANY-WAY...
YOU... MUST BE "NACHASH," RIGHT? CAN I CALL YOU NAHASHI-OJISAMA? COOL!

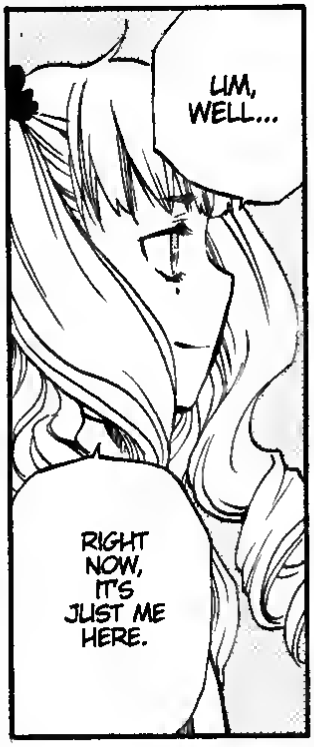
THIS WAY.
BECAUSE GRANDPA HAD ME SEND THAT LETTER TO YOU.
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?
GRANDPA'S EXPECTING YOU.
THAT'S...
SENSEI...?!


IT WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. GRANDPA'S BODY FINALLY REACHED ITS LIMITS.
HE STILL WANTED TO STAY, THOUGH. SINCE THE BODY IS A NECESSARY VESSEL FOR A SPIRIT...
HE USED A SPECIAL SPELL TO SEAL HIMSELF IN THAT STONE SO HE COULD REMAIN IN THIS WORLD.


YOUR SISTER?
IS SHE HIS ASSISTANT AS WELL?

AS LONG AS THE STONE AND HIS BODY INSIDE ARE NOT DESTROYED, HIS SPIRIT WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE ON HERE FOREVER.
BUT IT DOES HAVE ITS DRAWBACKS. AS HE IS NOW, ONLY TELEPATHS LIKE ME AND MY SISTER CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIM.

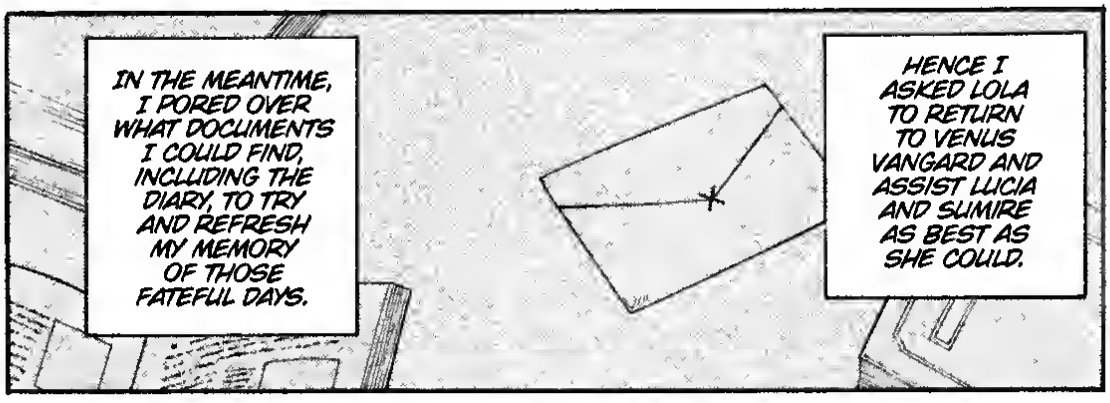
DON'T WORRY!
COMMUNICATING WITH GRANDPA IS WHAT I DO BEST!
.....


UM, WELL...
RIGHT NOW, IT'S JUST ME HERE.

BUT... BUT... HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE!
WHAT ?!
GRANDPA SAYS THAT YOU AREN'T TRULY READY YET.
Y'SEE...
!
WHAT IS THE MATTER, LOLA?
HNNN...
WELL...
SENSEI...
RATS!
JUST AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME...

I HAVE A QUESTION, LOLA.
ABOUT THE SISTER YOU MENTIONED EARLIER...
THANK YOU.
GRANDPA CAN BE SO STUBBORN ABOUT THE *WEIRDEST* THINGS!
I'LL TRY ASKING HIM AGAIN TOMORROW OR SO.
I THOUGHT AS MUCH. THE TWO OF YOU LOOK MUCH ALIKE.
YOU KNOW ABOUT LAYLA?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?!
!!
RATL
WOULD HER NAME HAPPEN TO BE "LAYLA"?
LOLA...
BUT WHY...?
AND YOU SAID SHE... *ATTACKED* YOU?
YEAH, THAT'S FROM LAYLA.
IT'S THE SAME BUTTON AS MINE.

I'M GOING TO GET LAYLA BACK!!
I'M NOT WAITING ANY-MORE!
THAT DOES IT!


IN THE MEANTIME, I PORED OVER WHAT DOCUMENTS I COULD FIND, INCLUDING THE DIARY, TO TRY AND REFRESH MY MEMORY OF THOSE FATEFUL DAYS.
HENCE I ASKED LOLA TO RETURN TO VENUS VANGARD AND ASSIST LUCIA AND SUMIRE AS BEST AS SHE COULD.

THEN I ONCE AGAIN CAME BEFORE MY SENSEI.

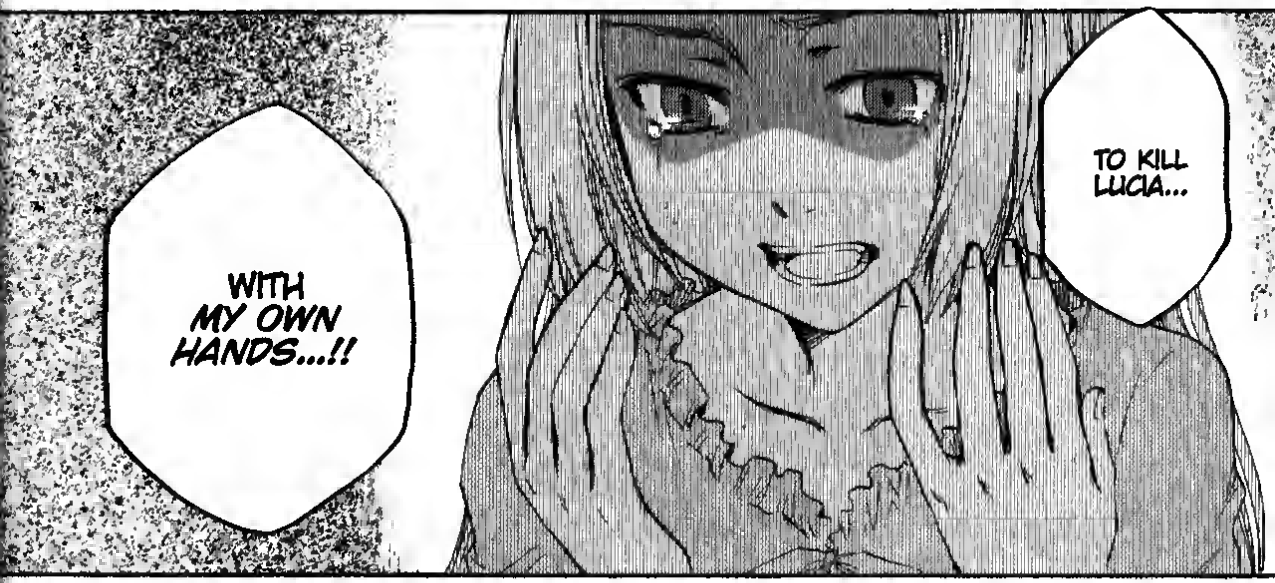
TEACH ME EVERY-THING.
PLEASE TEACH ME.
!
PLINK
KRIGH
THIS IS WHAT GRANDPA GAVE YOU?
THIS...
CORRECT.
.....
ACTUALLY, I BELIEVE HE WISHED ME TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

CHIMING
!
HM...
?
SMILE
NACHASH! IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME!
AND HELLO TO YOU TOO, LUCIA...
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT YOU'D REMEMBER ME.

WELL THEN, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE PLEASANTRIES.
I DON'T WANT TO PUT MORE STRESS ON LOLA'S BODY THAN I HAVE TO.
TO BEGIN...
THE EVENTS OF WHICH I WILL SPEAK ARE...
IN ALL LIKELI-HOOD...
SIMPLY ONE FACET OF A MUCH LARGER TRUTH.
LUCIA...
YOU HAD JUST SEEN YOUR FIRST BIRTHDAY...
WHEN THE FIRST SIGNS OF DANGER BEGAN TO APPEAR.
AAAGH!!
LILITH!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
.....
HFF
HFF

EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A DREAM...
FOR ME TO...
WHAT WAS I THINKING ...?!
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING TO ME...?

HOW COULD I...?
THAT... NIGHT-MARE.
YOU HAD IT AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?


WITH MY OWN HANDS...!!
TO KILL LUCIA...

HIS POWER HAD GRADUALLY BEGUN TO WEAKEN.
SINCE THE SIGILS HAD APPEARED ON YOU, LUCIA, AND YOUR EYE COLOR HAD CHANGED...
ON THE OTHER SIDE, LUCIF WATCHED HELP-LESSLY.
LILITH SPENT HER DAYS DREADING THE NIGHT AND THAT RECURRING NIGHTMARE.
.....

I'M SO SORRY, LILITH.
IF ONLY...
IF ONLY I STILL HAD THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING...
!!
TWITCH
IT'S HIM!!
?!
HIM...!
THAT "SORCERER" GUY FROM BEFORE!
HE'S DOING IT...!

HE'S THE ONE GIVING LILITH THESE NIGHTMARES! I JUST KNOW IT!
SHOOP
WHAT ...?
LUCIF, WAIT!
YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO...
LUCIF!!
THAT NIGHT, LUCIF VANISHED, GONE TO CHASE AFTER THE "SORCERER."
ONE MONTH LATER...
WHAAA
WHAAA

...CAME A NIGHT WITH FALLING STARS.
WAHHH
WAAAAH
LUCIA...?
LUCIF?!
HAH
TUNK
PERHAPS SHE'S HUNGRY?
NO. IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT...
WHAT'S WRONG, DARLING?
NACHASH! ARE YOU AWAKE?!
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS GOING ON HERE...?
LILITH!
WAIT!
LUCIF IS BACK!
TMP

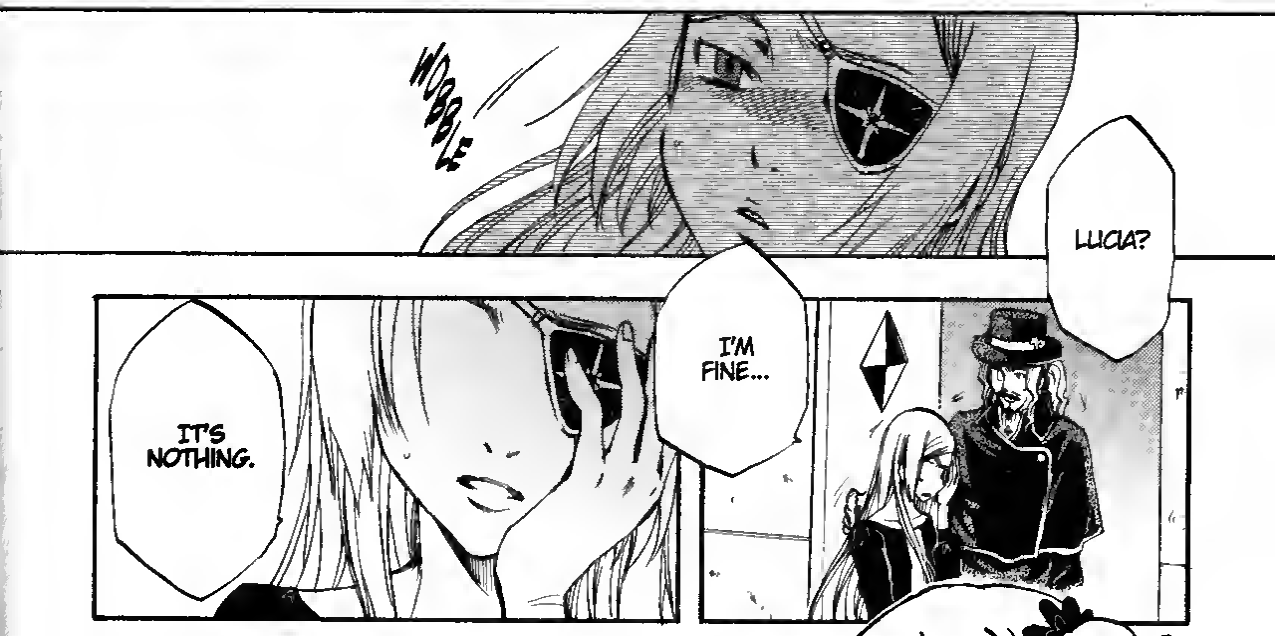
LILITH! WHERE ARE YOU?!
COME BACK HERE!
LILITH...
!
OH, IS THAT ALL?
IT'S JUST LUCIF...
THUNK

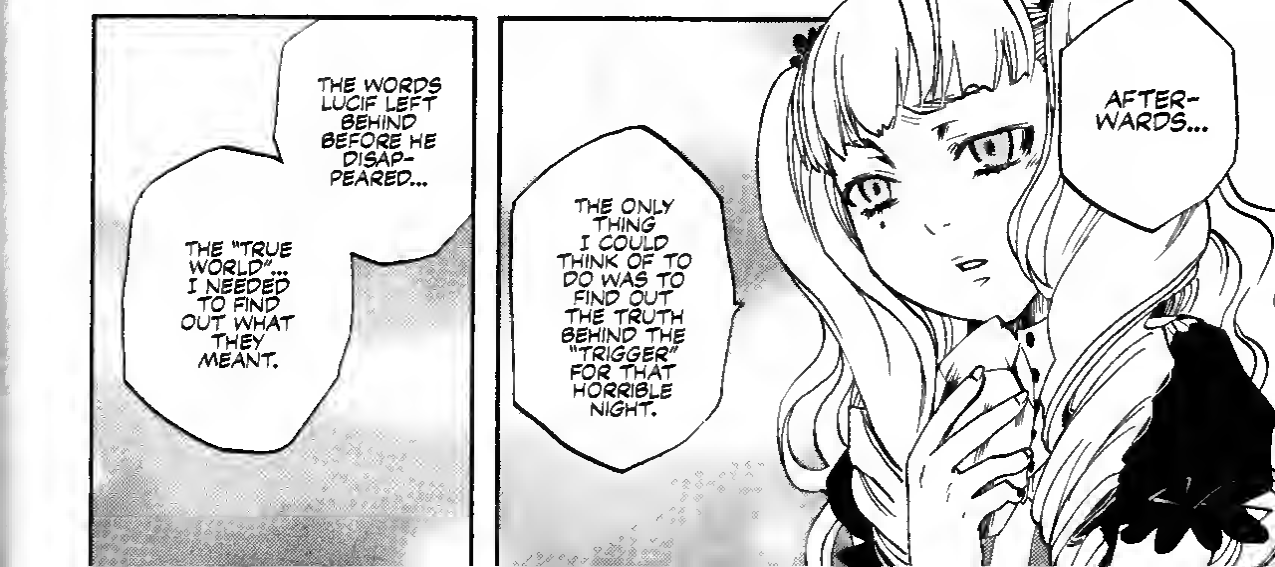
AAAH...
AH...
THE ONE...
TRUE WORLD...
THE TRUE...
OH, THANK GOD! YOU'RE BA--
HCF
HCF
LUCIF ?!
IT WILL BE MINE!
IT...

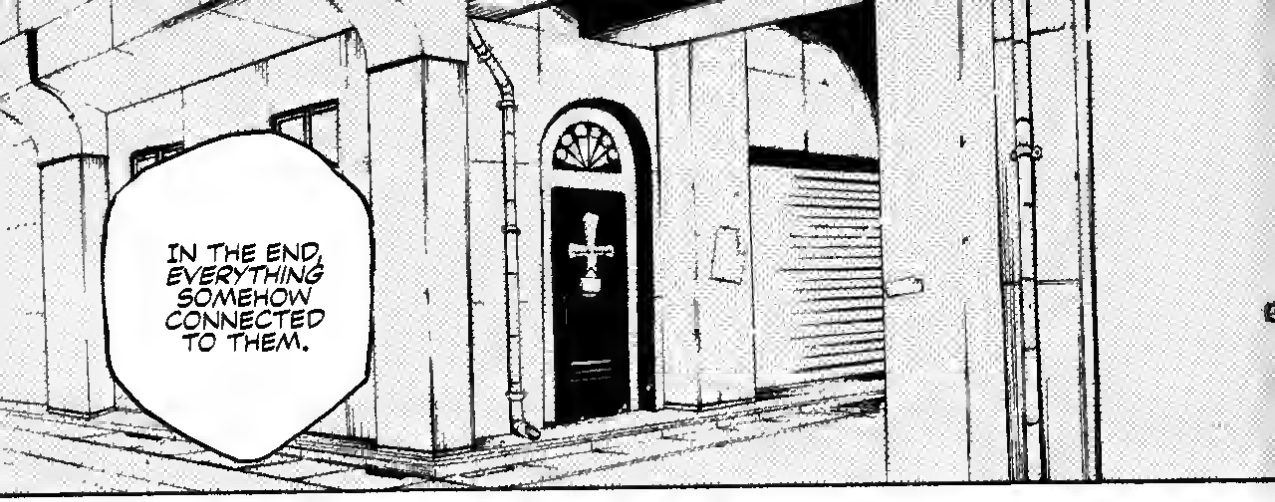
WHAT...?
HUH?
SLUMP
AAAAAAAH!!
WHIMP
GAAAAAAAH!!
LILITH !!
WHY...?

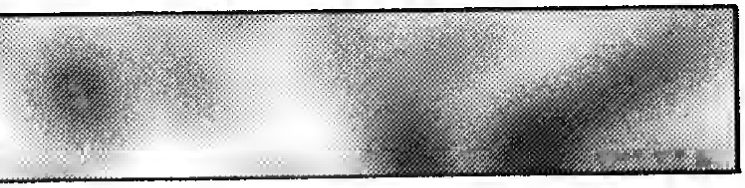
AHHHH!
DEAR GOD, WHY?!
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN ?!
PLEASE...
NACHASH...
GUIDE HER TO... THE TRUE LIGHT...
I'M... SORRY...
!
LUCIA...
NOOOOOO!!!
I COULD DO NOTHING.

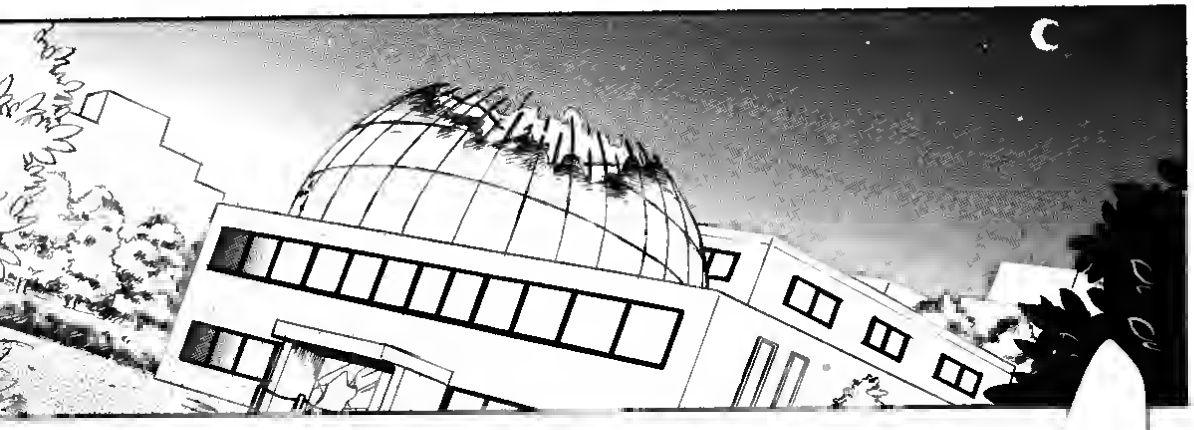
I CURSED MYSELF, CURSED MY WEAKNESS.
THE ENTIRE TRAGEDY UNFOLDED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES, YET I COULD DO NOTHING TO STOP IT.


WOBBLE
LUCIA?
I'M FINE...
IT'S NOTHING.


AFTER-WARDS...
THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF TO DO WAS TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND THE "TRIGGER" FOR THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT.
THE WORDS LUCIF LEFT BEHIND BEFORE HE DISAP-PEARED...
THE "TRUE WORLD"... I NEEDED TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY MEANT.


IN THE END, EVERYTHING SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THEM.





NH...
I...

HUH...?

BLAM
YO...
YOSHIKI-SAN...?
YOSHIKI-SAN!
NGH...
WHEW
!

HUH...?
SHIK!

BLAM
GRRR
...GRRR!
GRRR...
GRRR...

LUCIA-SAN...?!
BTHMP
AH...
AAA-AAA-AHH!!
BTHMP
LUCIA-SAN SHOT HIM...
SHE SHOT YOSHIKI-SAN...!!

THE LIGHT...
IT'S... SO BRIGHT...

NH...
SHF
BTHMP
UH...?
!
SHVR
NO... THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
UP UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO, YOSHIKI-SAN WAS...

SUMIRE!
THERE SHE IS!
EEEEE
?!
BTAM
TP TP TP TP TP
RUNNING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE IN YOUR NIGHTY...
?!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ?!
NO WAY...
NO...

star light cinema
SLUMP

THE BUILDING... THE GROUND... EVERYTHING... AND REPLACED IT?
INCONCEIV-ABLE! THEY TOOK THIS ENTIRE AREA...

BUT... THE DOME WAS DESTROYED!
HOW COME IT'S ALL BACK TOGETHER NOW?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

YOSHIKI-SAN...!
PLEASE! TELL ME!
Star light cinema
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU...?!

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

SUMIRE ?!
YOSHIKI-SAN!!
TMP TMP
star light cinema
SUMIRE!
YOSHIKI-SAN!!
SUMIRE-KUN, PLEASE!
CALM YOUR-SELF...
PULL
NNNGH!
THE NIGHTMARE I HAD...
GAVE ME AN IRRESISTIBLE SENSE OF URGENCY.
WHAM

NO...!!
.....
HFF
IT HURTS.
NO...
IT FEELS LIKE MY HEART...
IS TRYING TO RIP ITSELF OUT OF MY CHEST.
YOSHIKI-SAN...
WHERE ARE YOU...?!

Piece 24
WILL TO FIGHT. TRUE INTENTIONS.

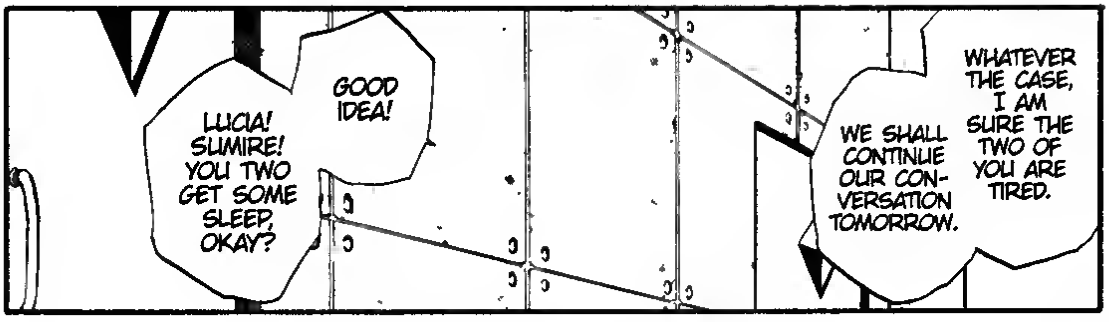
THERE. DO YOU FEEL ANY BETTER NOW, SUMIRE-KUN?
SIGH...
MEANING... NOT AT ALL.
YES...
.....
I'M GOING TO GO BACK.
I NEED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.
WHY
THERE MIGHT BE SOME CLUES WE MISSED!
I...

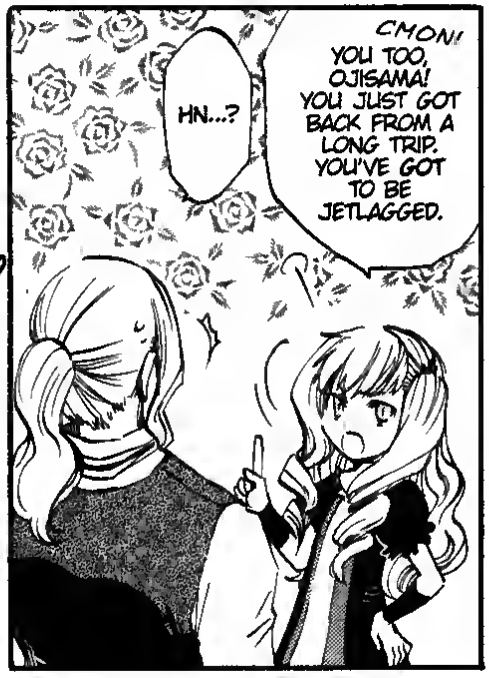
LOLA HAS A POINT, SUMIRE-KUN. NOW IS THE TIME FOR CAREFUL THOUGHT.
IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT YOU HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF SPELL PLACED UPON YOU.
WHUMP
OH...
SHEESH!
FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, NO! YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT!
IT IS STILL THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, YOU KNOW?
I DON'T THINK THIS IS BECAUSE OF A SPELL.
I-I'M JUST HAVING A REALLY HARD TIME STAYING STILL.
SQUEEZE
UM...
GLOOM
BACK THERE...

WHY...?
WHY COULDN'T I DO ANYTHING...?
!
SUMIRE ...?
OH...

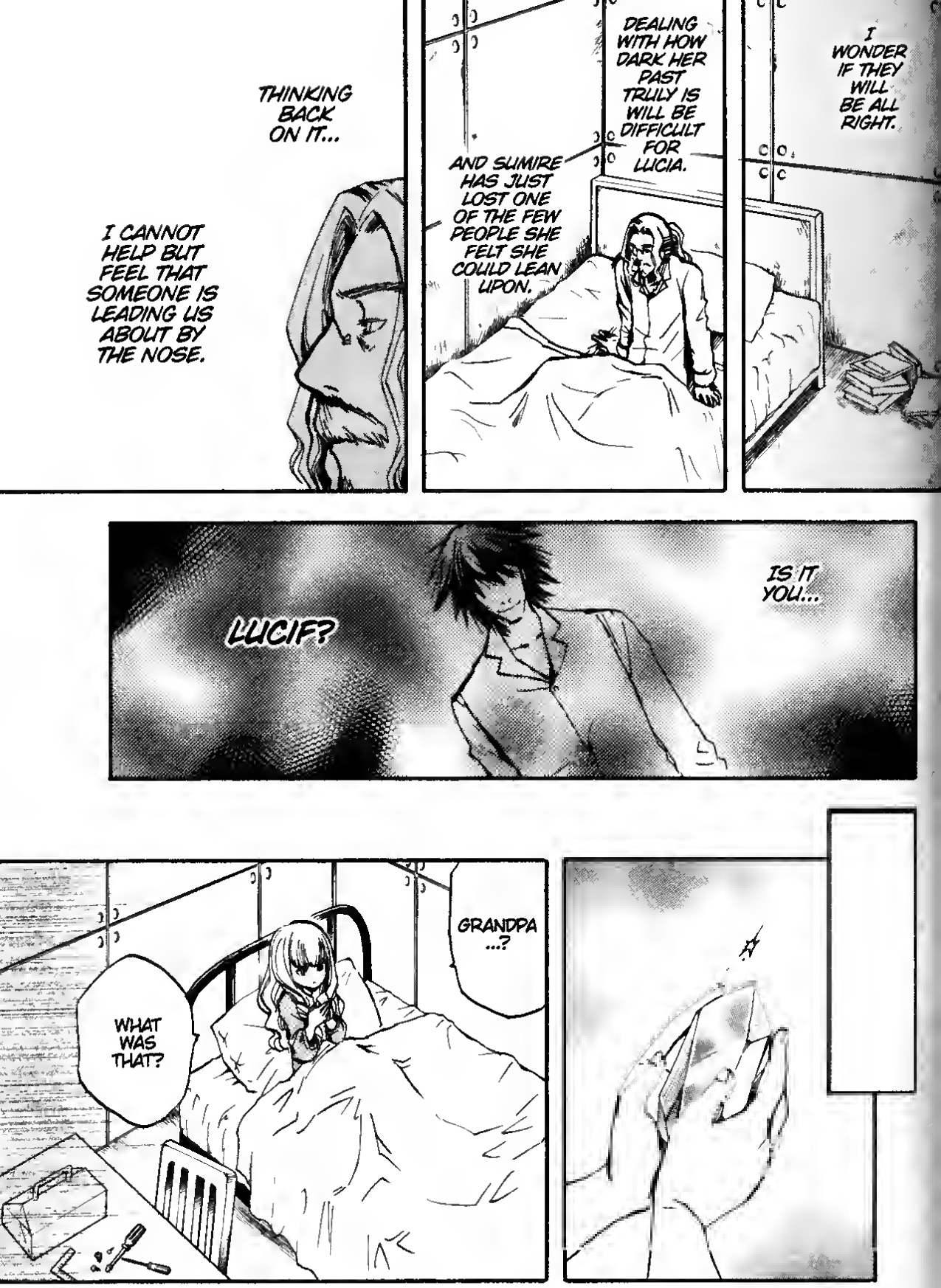
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING WHEN YOU WOKE UP?!
STOMP
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS?!
ACK! S-S-SORRY!
TWITCH
LUCIA-SAN...
WHEW
YOU'RE AWAKE.
THAT'S GOOD...
?
OJISAMA AND I JUST GOT BACK HOME WITH HER.
SHE JUST GOT UP AND RAN OFF, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD.
YEP. SHE DID.
DID YOU GO SOME-WHERE?
.....

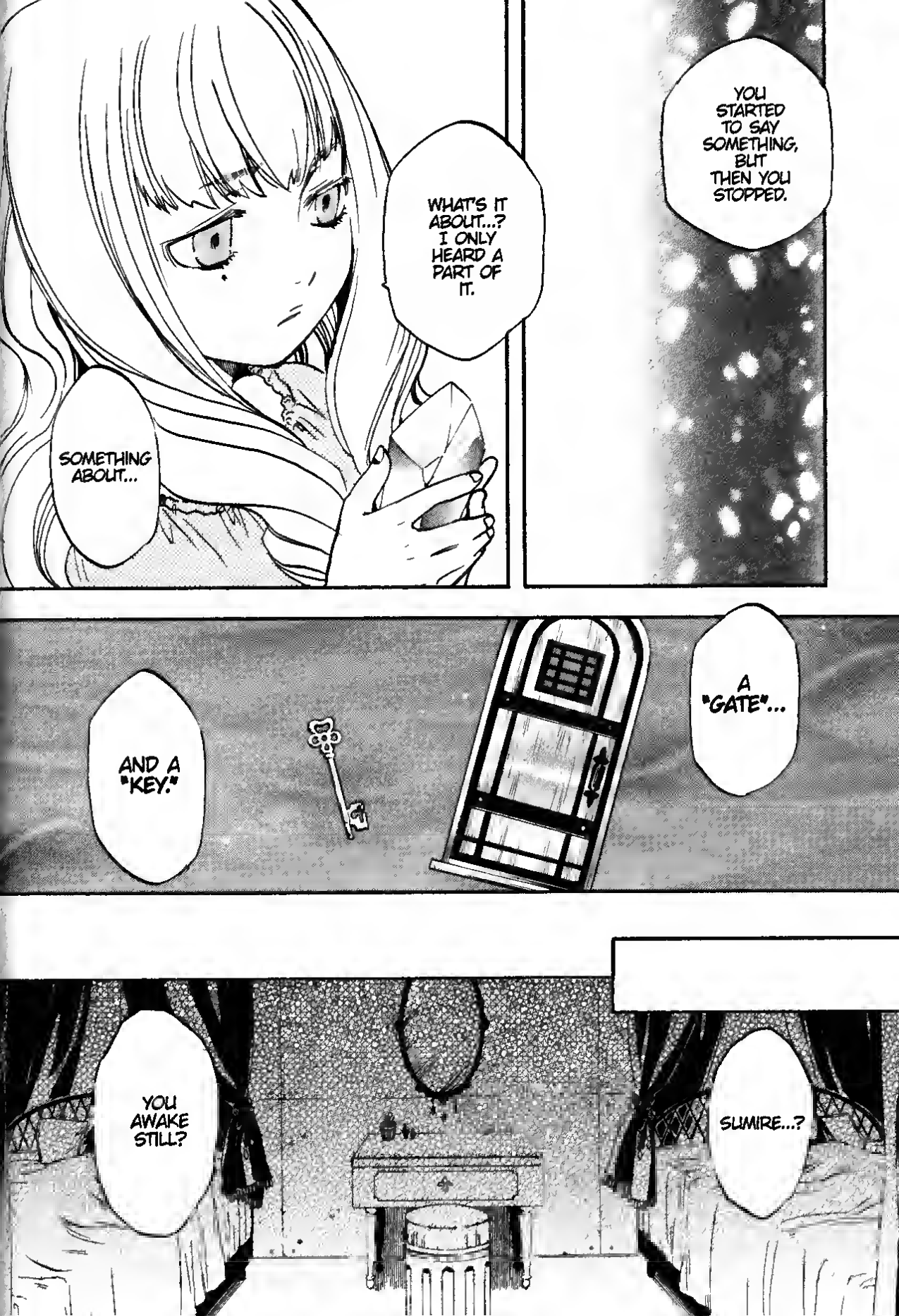
I'M SORRY...

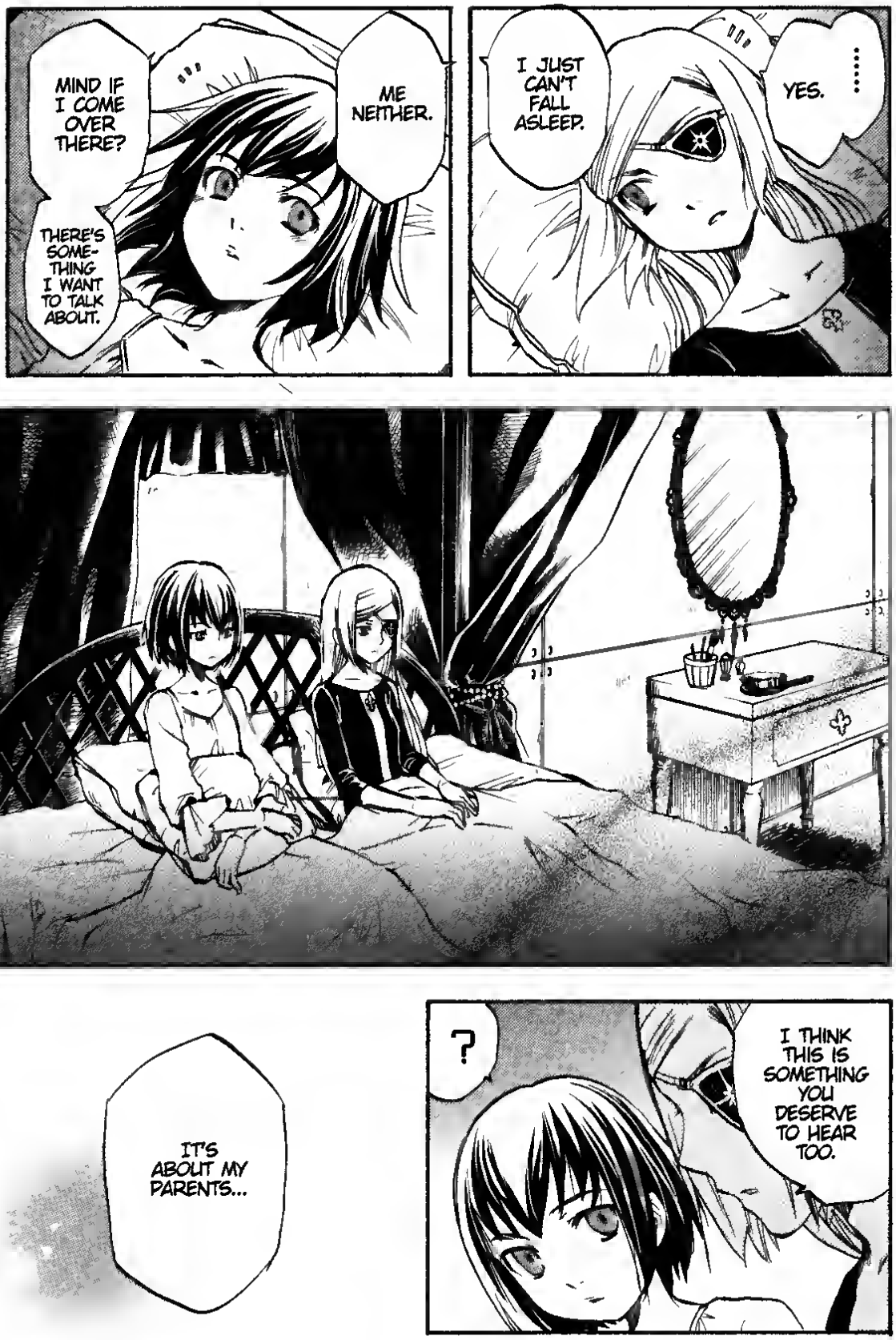

WHATEVER THE CASE, I AM SURE THE TWO OF YOU ARE TIRED.
WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION TOMORROW.
GOOD IDEA!
LUCIA! SUMIRE! YOU TWO GET SOME SLEEP, OKAY?

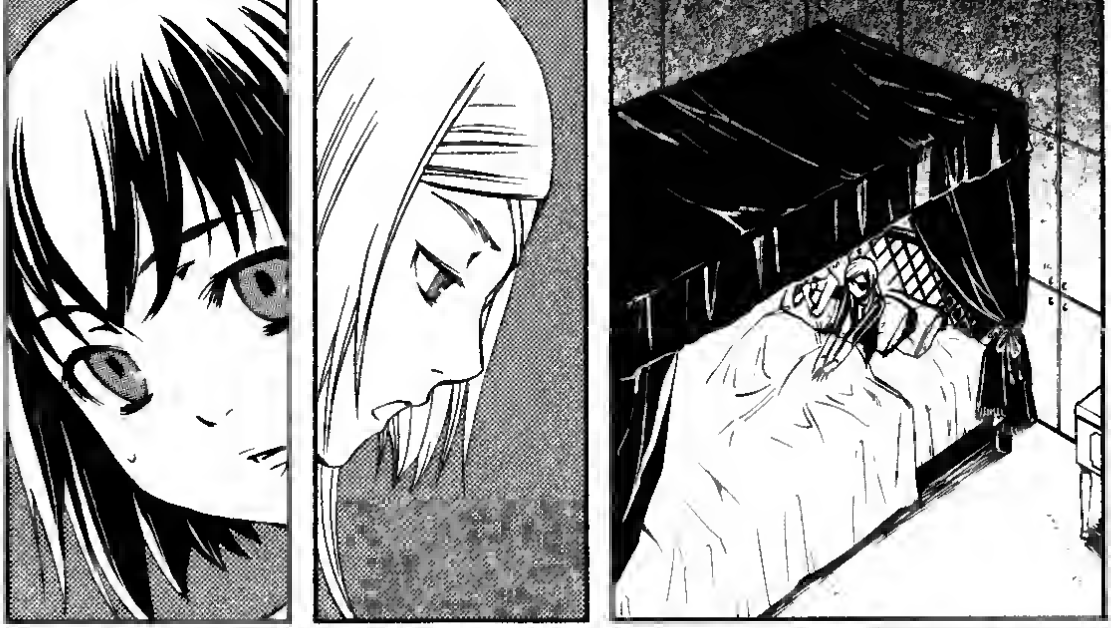

CMON!
YOU TOO, OJISAMA! YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM A LONG TRIP. YOU'VE GOT TO BE JETLAGGED.
HN...?

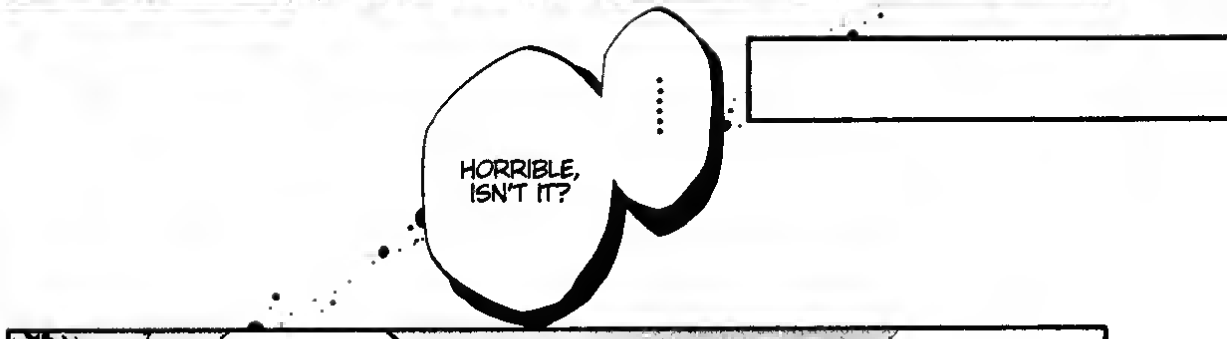
I'LL CLEAN UP THE TEA SET AND EVERYTHING. YOU GET TO BED!
OOF!
HOW!

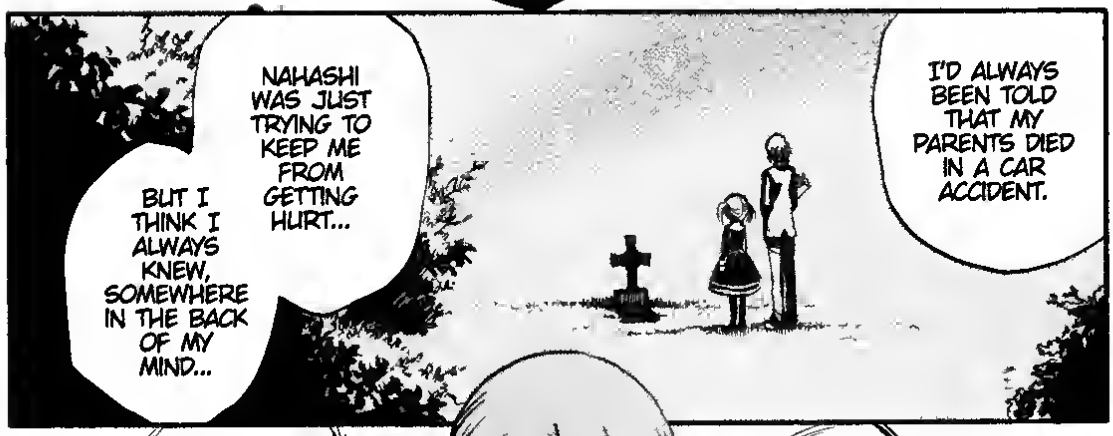

I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT SOMEONE IS LEADING US ABOUT BY THE NOSE.
THINKING BACK ON IT...
AND SUMIRE HAS JUST LOST ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE SHE FELT SHE COULD LEAN UPON.
DEALING WITH HOW DARK HER PAST TRULY IS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR LUCIA.
I WONDER IF THEY WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
LUCIF?
IS IT YOU...
WHAT WAS THAT?
GRANDPA ...?

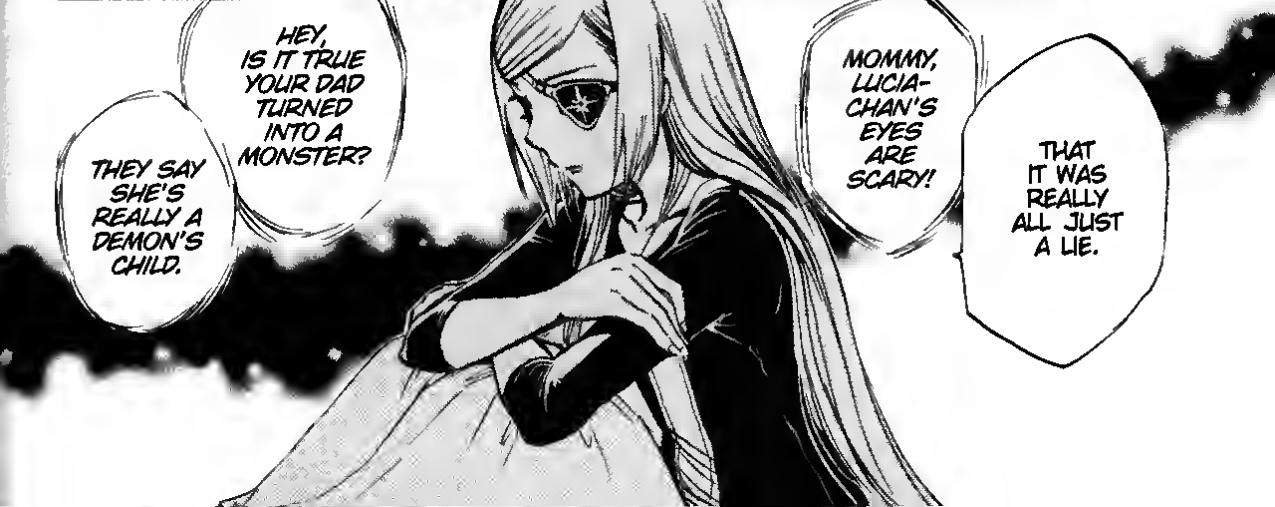

YOU STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT THEN YOU STOPPED.
WHAT'S IT ABOUT...? I ONLY HEARD A PART OF IT.
SOMETHING ABOUT...
A "GATE"...
AND A "KEY."
SUMIRE...?
YOU AWAKE STILL?


I JUST CAN'T FALL ASLEEP.
YES.
.....
ME NEITHER.
MIND IF I COME OVER THERE?
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING YOU DESERVE TO HEAR TOO.
?
IT'S ABOUT MY PARENTS...



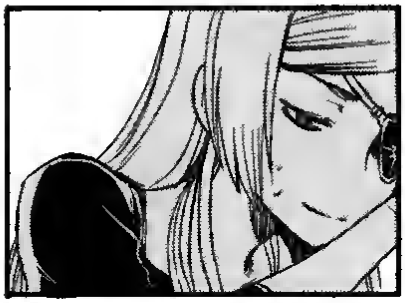

HORRIBLE, ISN'T IT?
.....


I'D ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT MY PARENTS DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT.
NAHASHI WAS JUST TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM GETTING HURT...
BUT I THINK I ALWAYS KNEW, SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK OF MY MIND...


THAT IT WAS REALLY ALL JUST A LIE.
MOMMY, LUCIA-CHAN'S EYES ARE SCARY!
HEY, IS IT TRUE YOUR DAD TURNED INTO A MONSTER?
THEY SAY SHE'S REALLY A DEMON'S CHILD.

I THINK, DEEP DOWN, I WAS PRAYING THAT IT WAS REALLY TRUE...
THAT ALL THE UGLY RUMORS WERE WRONG, AND MY DOUBTS WERE FOR NOTHING.
.....
NO...
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT EITHER.
BUT THEY WEREN'T.
THAT ONE LITTLE HOPE I HAD IS GONE NOW.
IN THE END...
IT'S ALL *HIS* FAULT.
LUCIF. *HE* GAVE ME THIS STUPID EYE. *HE* STOLE ANY HOPE I HAD OF A NORMAL LIFE.
HE EVEN KILLED MY MOTHER...
AND NOW I FIND OUT...
THAT HE'S *STILL* ALIVE SOMEWHERE.
SHE...

LUCIA-SAN...
.....
HEH ...



HEH HEH ...
ARE YOU OKAY ?

YOU KNOW...

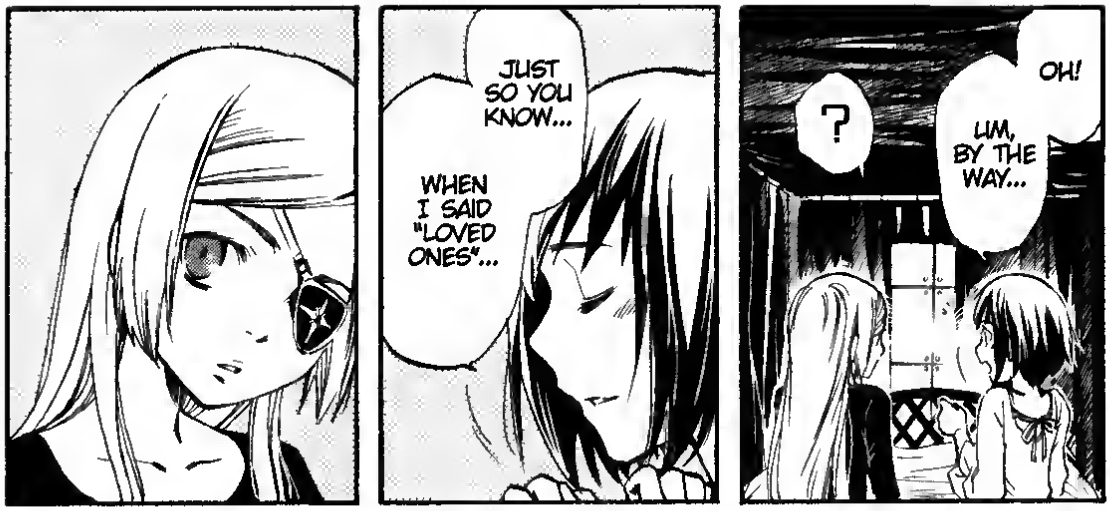
I CANNOT FORGIVE THAT.

MY LEFT EYE... MY WORK AS A MONSTER HUNTER...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

EVERY-THING...
HAS PREPARED ME TO BE THE ONE TO PUNISH HIM FOR ALL HE'S DONE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF I WAS BORN TO DO THIS.
IRONICALLY, RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S GIVING ME ANY DIRECTION IN MY LIFE.
LUCIA-SAN, NO!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! IT--
IT'S OKAY, SUMIRE. REALLY.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO GET RID OF THE ROOT OF ALL THIS EVIL.
OR WITH THIS EYE, I COULD...
I THOUGHT THIS FIGHT WOULD BE ONE THAT LASTED FOREVER...
BUT NOW I CAN SEE A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. IT'S FAINT, BUT IT'S THERE.

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S ONLY ONE ROAD AVAILABLE TO US RIGHT NOW, IF WE FOLLOW IT...
EVENTUALLY, WE MIGHT COME UP TO A PLACE WHERE IT WIDENS.
THEN, MAYBE WE CAN DO *SOMETHING*.
.....
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
AND MAYBE, I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO HOLD MY HEAD HIGH...
AND SAY THAT THIS POWER OF MINE IS A GREAT POWER, MEANT FOR PROTECTING MY LOVED ONES.
NOT JUST FOR DESTRUCTION.

MUST BE A GREAT GUY JUDGING FROM THE WAY YOU WENT OUT ALONE TO SAVE HIM THAT NIGHT...
YOU'RE WORRIED FOR HIM, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SAID HIS NAME WAS YOSHIKI, RIGHT?
"LOVED ONES," HUH...?
HE'S GOT A POWER LIKE OURS, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.
SOMEONE LIKE HIM WON'T GO DOWN SO EASY.
OH...
AND TO THINK THAT HE'S THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU BACK AT THE PLANETARIUM.
?!
LUCIA-SAN...
TOMORROW, LET'S HIT ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN THINK OF THAT MIGHT HAVE ANY CLUES.
BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.


JUST SO YOU KNOW...
WHEN I SAID "LOVED ONES"...
?
OH!
UM, BY THE WAY...

I WAS INCLUDING YOU TOO.

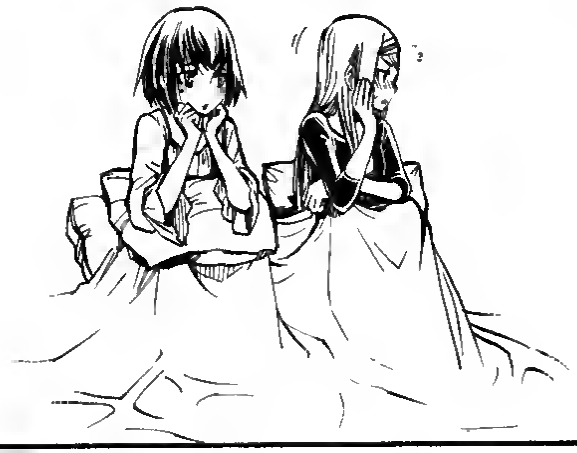
SUMIRE'S WORDS WERE STRANGELY...
TICKLISH INSIDE.
OH...
HUH ...?

MUMBLE

THANKS...

TURNING AWAY AND SAYING...

WAS ALL I COULD DO.

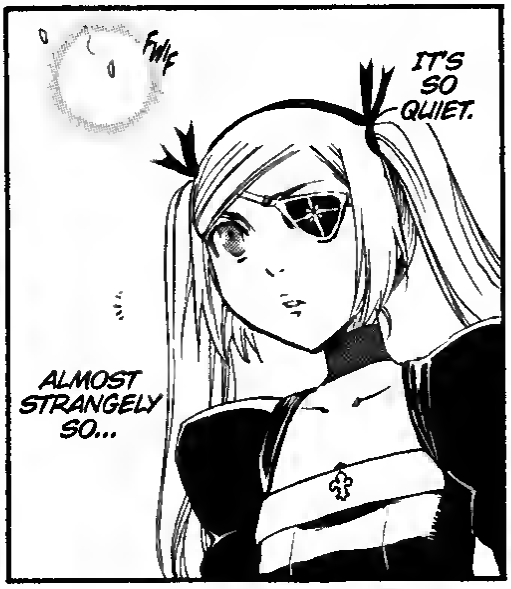


SO THIS IS IT, HUH?
THE PARK YOU ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT.
YES.

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK OVER THAT WAY.
HM?
OH, OKAY!

HE'S NOT HERE...

PRETTY EMPTY PARK, IF YOU ASK ME.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE EVER COME TO THIS PLACE.
.....

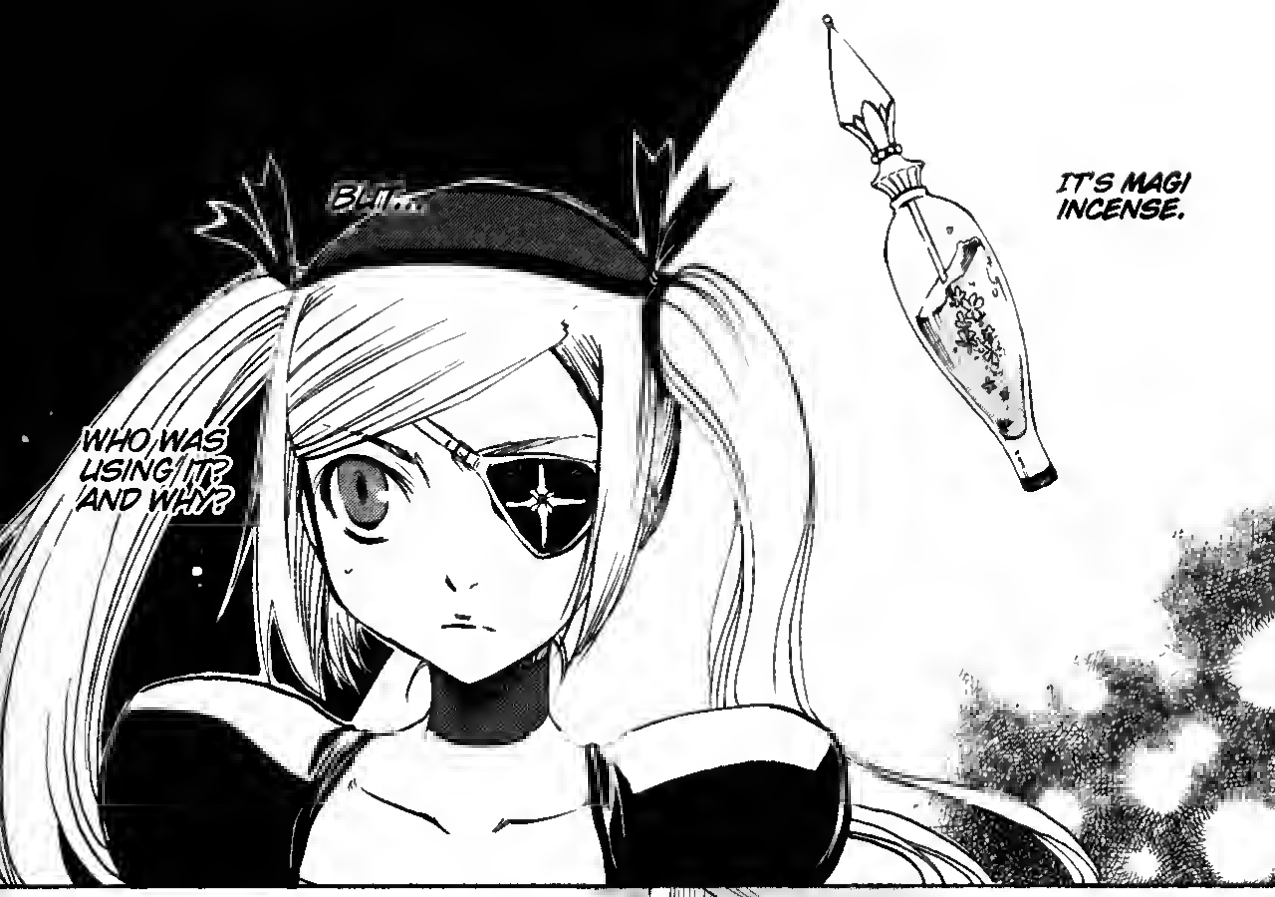

FWIP
IT'S SO QUIET.
ALMOST STRANGELY SO...

WAIT.

AND THERE'S THE FAINT SCENT OF FLOWERS.
THAT...

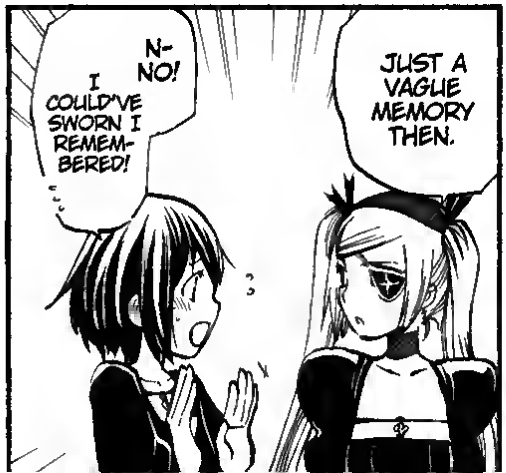
SO WHAT IS IT...?
THIS ISN'T WHAT CHERRY BLOSSOMS SMELL LIKE.
A-HA!
TWP TWP TWP
LUCIA-SAN?
AH!
IT'S BEEN THERE, FAINTLY, SINCE WE WALKED INTO THE PARK.
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE I ASKED YOSHIKI-SAN FOR ADVICE ON HOW I COULD MAKE UP WITH YOU.
HEE HEE!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
TIME GOES BY SO FAST. THEY WERE ALL JUST BUDS ONLY A LITTLE BIT AGO.
THEY'RE... DONE BLOOMING, AREN'T THEY?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS FLOWERY SMELL IS...?
OH! YOU CAN SMELL IT TOO?
HUH?
INNOCENT FACE
MAKE UP? I DON'T REMEMBER US ARGUING.
ANY-WAY...
ISN'T THAT NEAT?
EVEN WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, THERE WERE LITTLE FLOWERS BLOOMING ALL OVER!
THE PARK ALWAYS SMELLS LIKE THIS.
.....
YES. IT IS.
NOW I REMEMBER.
THIS SCENT...


IT'S MAGI INCENSE.
WHO WAS USING IT? AND WHY?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE LOST?
I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN TO HIS PLACE BEFORE, RIGHT?
UMM...

HUH...? WAIT...


N-NO! I COULD'VE SWORN I REMEMBERED!
JUST A VAGUE MEMORY THEN.

I COULD'VE SWORN THE WAY I WALKED HOME WAS SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...
ER KINDA. HE CARRIED ME THERE ONCE.

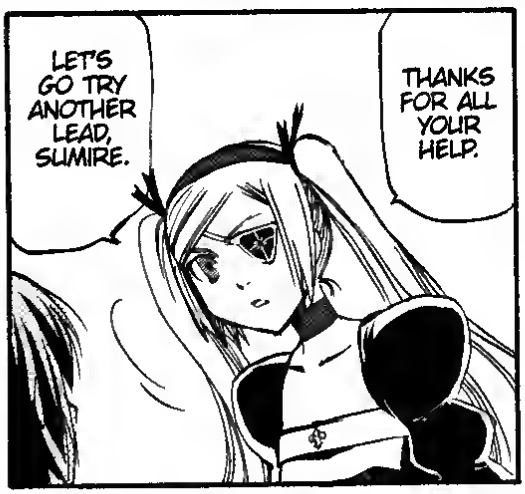
IT'S JUST...
THE MORE I TRY TO REMEMBER THE WAY...
THE MORE THIS... FOG IN MY HEAD OBSCURES EVERY-THING.
HNH. WELL, NO USE BEATING A DEAD HORSE.
WHAT LEADS DO WE HAVE LEFT?
OH YEAH. THEY'RE ALL GONE ON SPRING BREAK.
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE STILL SOME STUDENTS AROUND.
WE'LL HAVE TO ASK ALL OF THEM, THOUGH.
!...!
SHIVER...

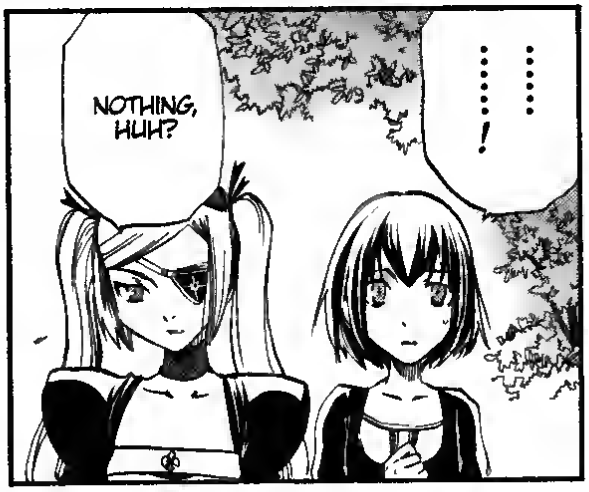
YEAH...
THAT NIGHT...
IT...
IT FEELS LIKE FOREVER SINCE THAT NIGHT.
COMING HERE, IT'S HARD NOT TO REMEMBER...
BUT IN REALITY...
IT WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO.
AND ALL THE PEOPLE WE COULDN'T SAVE.
FSH
C'MON, SUMIRE. LET'S GO.

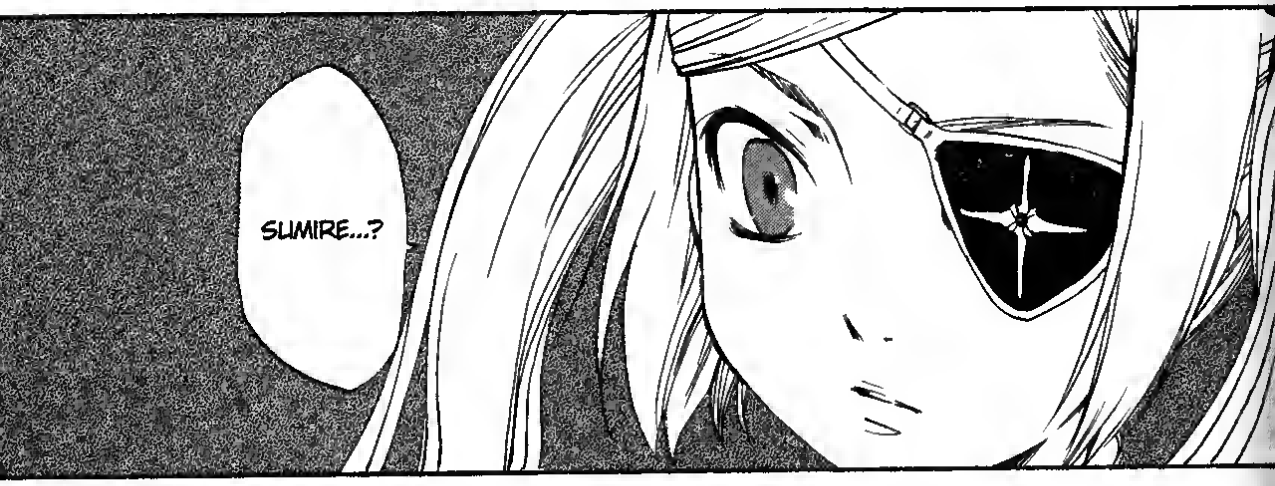
THERE'S STILL STUFF WE CAN DO, SO WE'D BETTER GO AND DO IT.
YEAH!

HUH...?
WHAT ABOUT YOSHIKI?
HMM...
HE NEVER JOINED ANY CLUBS, SO I DOUBT HE'S HERE. HE WOULDN'T HAVE A REASON TO BE HERE DURING BREAK.
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TELL US IF HE'S HERE TODAY?
DON'T YOU HAVE HIS CELL NUMBER?
!
ARE YOU ONE OF HIS FRIENDS?!
WELL... SORTA.
!
HIS... CELL PHONE ...?
OH YEAH. LEMME GIVE HIM A CALL QUICK.
SUMIRE...?
HUH...?
.....

WHAT THE HELL?
I'M SORRY. THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS--
IT'S DISCON-NECTED...?


THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
LET'S GO TRY ANOTHER LEAD, SUMIRE.


.....!
NOTHING, HUH?


SUMIRE...?

I...

HE EVEN TOLD ME HE DIDN'T HAVE ONE...
I... I NEVER KNEW HE HAD A CELL PHONE.

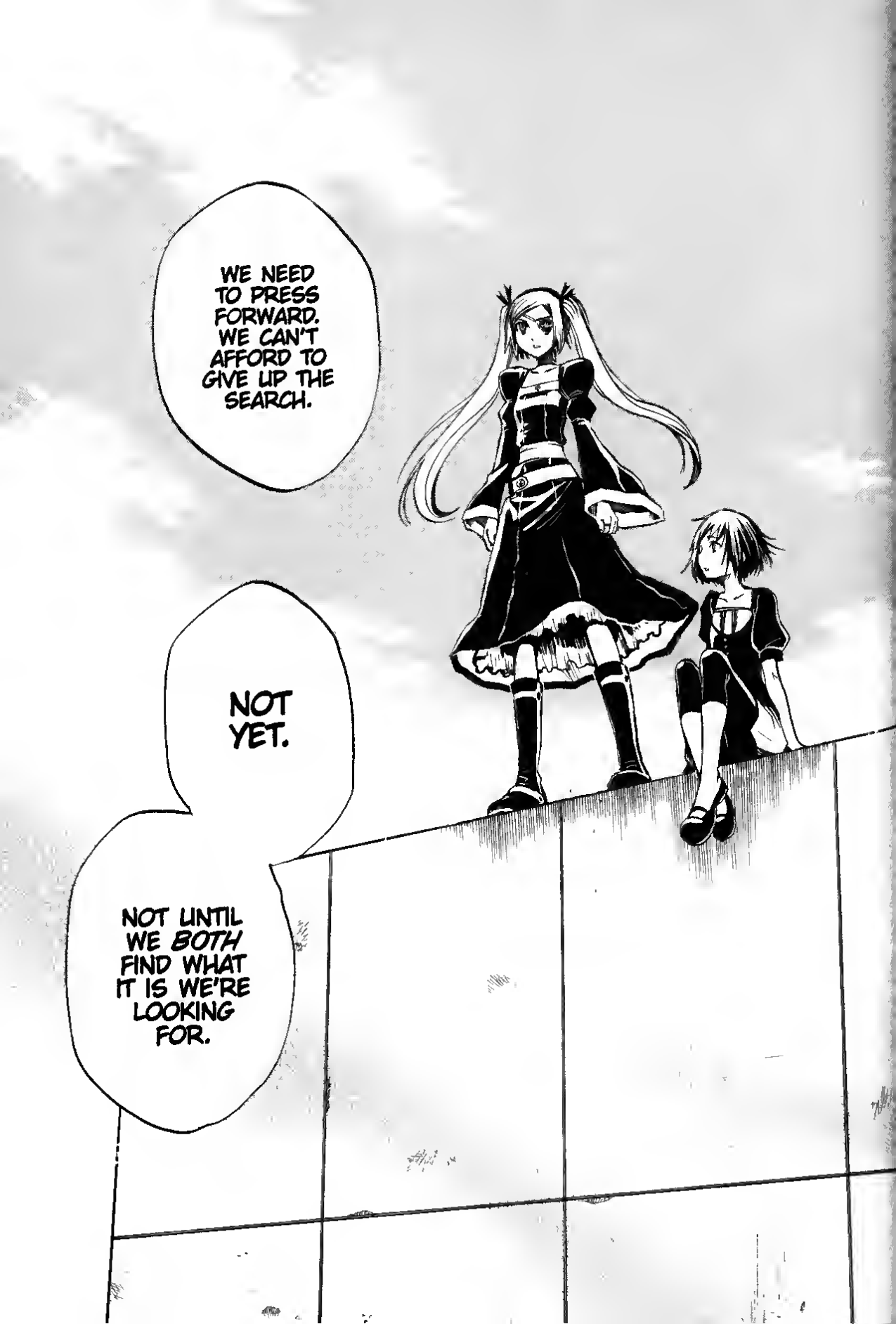
I TRUSTED HIM...
I...

DID HE JUST MAKE THAT GIRL CRY?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH?!
SUMIRE...

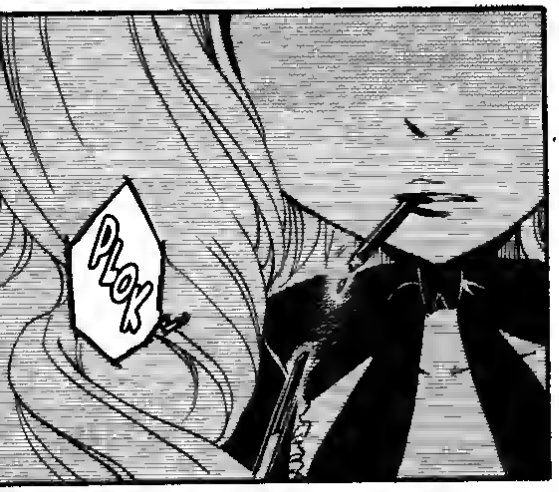
I'LL ADMIT...

MAYBE...
MAYBE HE WAS JUST PLAYING WITH ME...
ELUSIVE, I GUESS. BUT STILL...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOSHIKI-SAN WAS A LITTLE... UM...
LOVE, HUH? GOD, THAT EMOTION SEEMS LIKE IT LEADS TO NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
I HAVE NO IDEA...
HMPH...
GLOOOM
IS IT POSSIBLE HE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH OUR ENEMIES?
OH, SUMIRE?
I HAVE TO ASK...

NO! NEVER!! IMPOSSI-BLE!!!
GRRRR
TWITCH
THEN ENOUGH WITH THE CRYING.
!!!
ALL RIGHT.
SIGH
NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS...
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO TRUST HIM, HUH?


WE NEED TO PRESS FORWARD. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH.
NOT YET.
NOT UNTIL WE *BOTH* FIND WHAT IT IS WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

C'MON. LET'S BOTH WALK THIS ROAD. TOGETHER.
RIG...
BUB
NH...
AH...


PLOK

KRK
H

R-
RIGHT!
WAAAAAH!
HEY!
DIDN'T
I JUST
SAY NO
MORE
CRYING?!

I CANNOT BEAR WAITING MUCH LONGER.
MNCH
MNCH
AHHH...
HURRY.

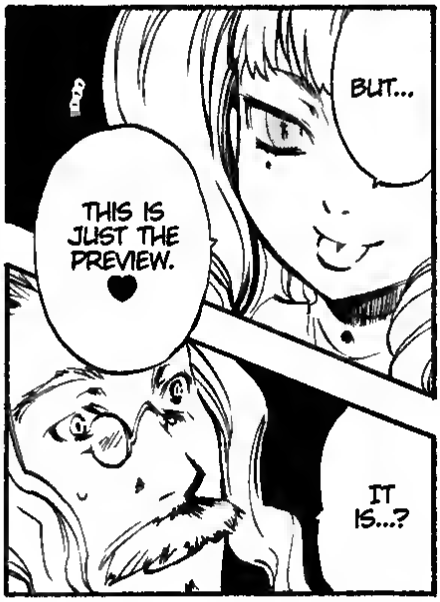
PLEASE HURRY AND AWAKEN...
MY MASTER.

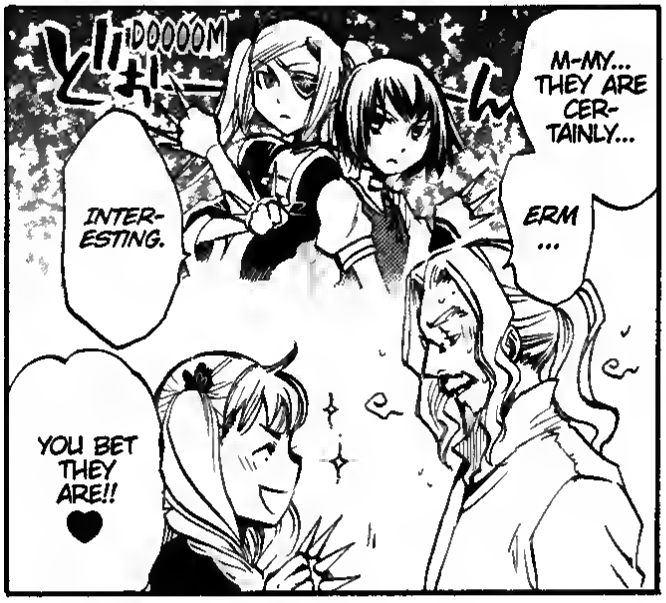
Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

OJISAMA!
ぱたぱたぱた
OJISAMA, COME AND SEE!
バタン
?
LOLA?
I FINISHED IT!

ANTIVIRUS BRASS KNUCKLES !!!
WITH VACCINE AND EVERYTHING!
ガキ
SHIIING
ン

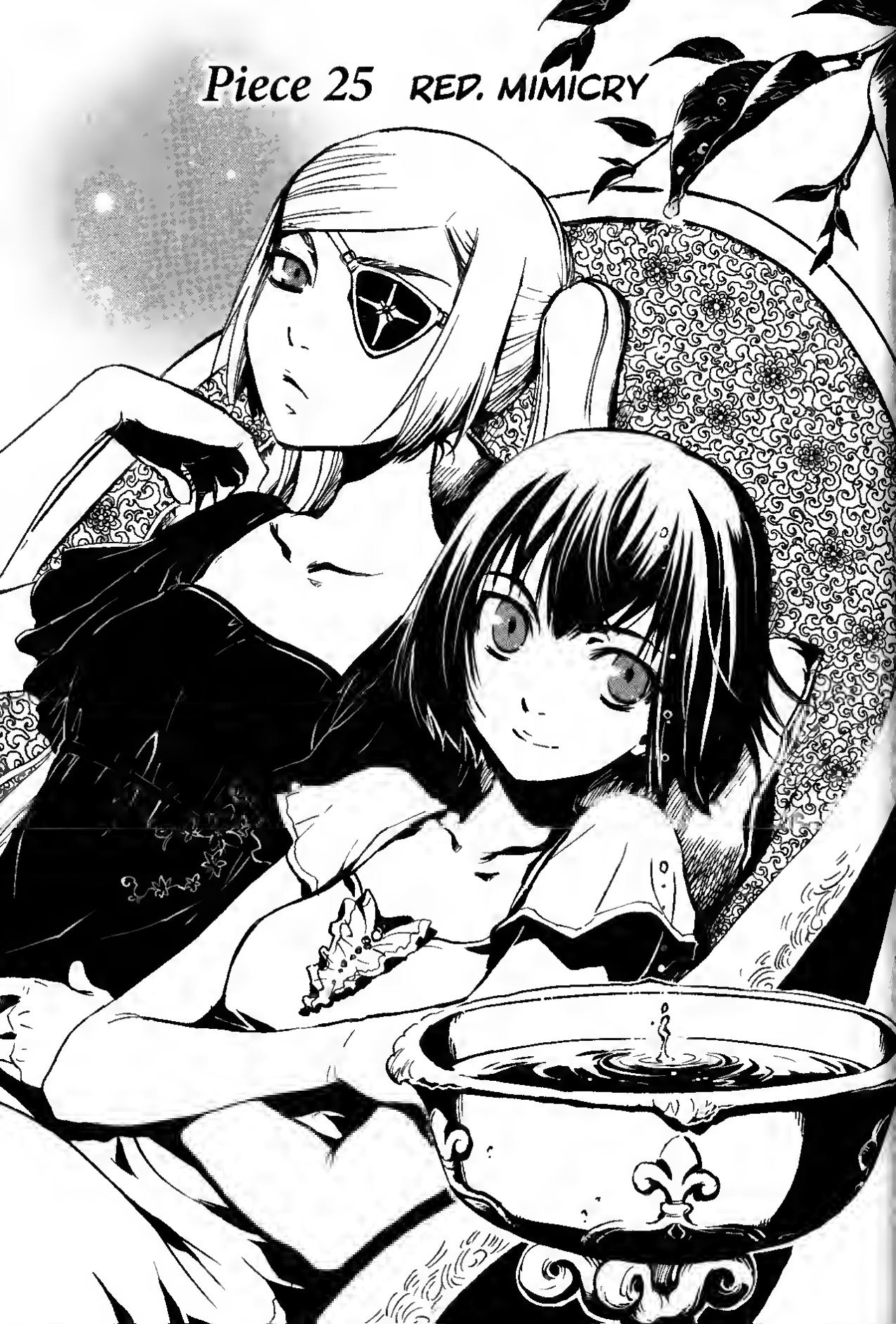

BUT...
THIS IS JUST THE PREVIEW.
IT IS...?


DOOOOM
M-MY... THEY ARE CER-TAINLY...
INTER-ESTING.
ERM ...
YOU BET THEY ARE!!

.....!

THE REAL SHOW-STOPPERS ARE THESE!

Piece 25 RED. MIMICRY



LOOKS LIKE THEY AREN'T UP TO ANYTHING TONIGHT, EITHER.
ZLUP
GUESS THESE SMALL FRIES DIDN'T GET THE NOTE.
Hi hi...
ZLOOP

THAT SCENT ...
WHAT AN EXQUISITELY DELICIOUS SOUL YOU MUST HAVE!
ZLOOOOP
ZLUK
SWISH
CHIK
SWOOSH
BANG
BANG
THANKS FOR THE COMPLI-MENT!

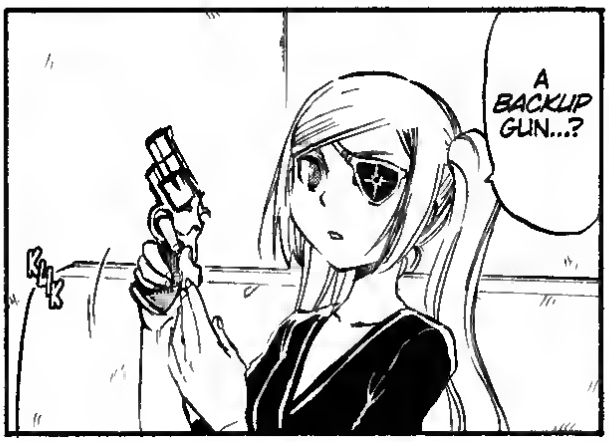
VMMM
!
KLIN
SWF
GREEE...
ZOOP
FWO
OOSH
WELL, THAT WAS EASY.
YEAH. THAT KEKKAI PROFESSOR DERMEIL TAUGHT YOU IS AWESOME.
IT MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER.
FSH
YEAH, THERE'S THAT...
BUT ALL THE COORDINATION THAT THE VIRUSES HAD BEFORE IS GONE AS WELL.
PLIP

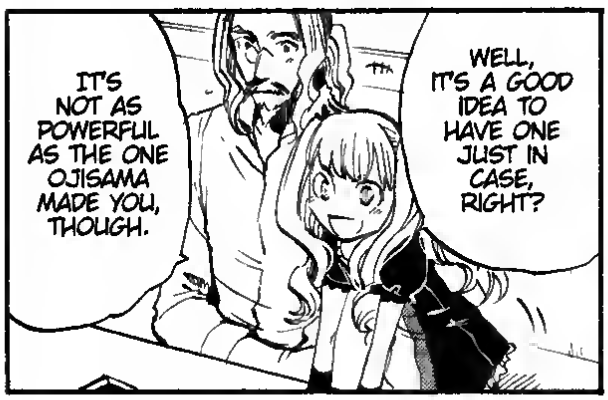
PLP
YOSHIKI-SAN...
HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY, RIGHT...?
.....
MAYBE THIS MEANS SOMETHING'S HAPPENED IN THE ENEMY'S COMMAND RANKS?
.....
PLP
PLP
YEAH, I'M SURE HE'S FINE.
SHAAAA
.....
YEAH.
THIS RAIN...
IT SURE IS STARTING TO POUR.

IT'D BE NICE...
IF IT COULD JUST WASH AWAY ALL OUR FEARS AND DOUBTS.
.....
LUCIA-SAN...
C'MON, SUMIRE. LET'S GO HOME.
OKAY...

HM? WHAT'S UP, LOLA?
HURRY UP, SHOWER AND GET CHANGED, OKAY?
I HAVE SOME-THING I *REALLY* WANT TO SHOW YOU!
I'VE BEEN WAITING !!
WELCOME BACK, YOU TWO!
ONE, TWO, THREE...
READY FOR IT?
TA DA!!

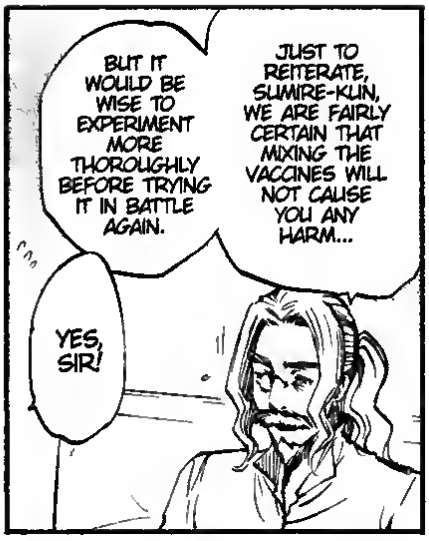
THESE ...!
.....!

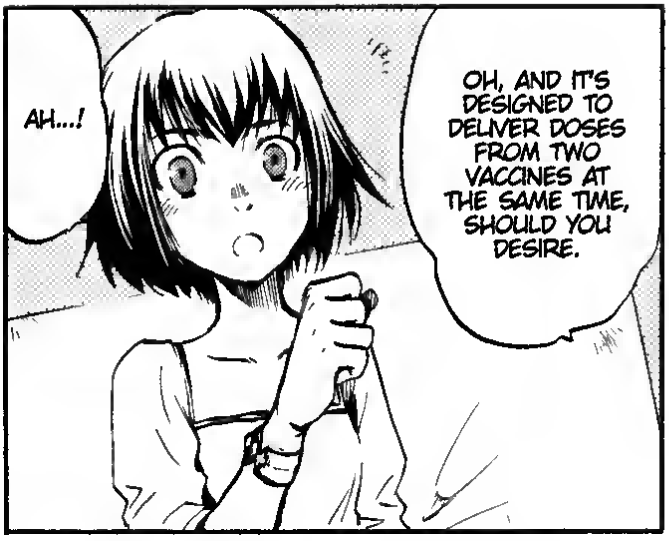

A BACKUP GUN...?

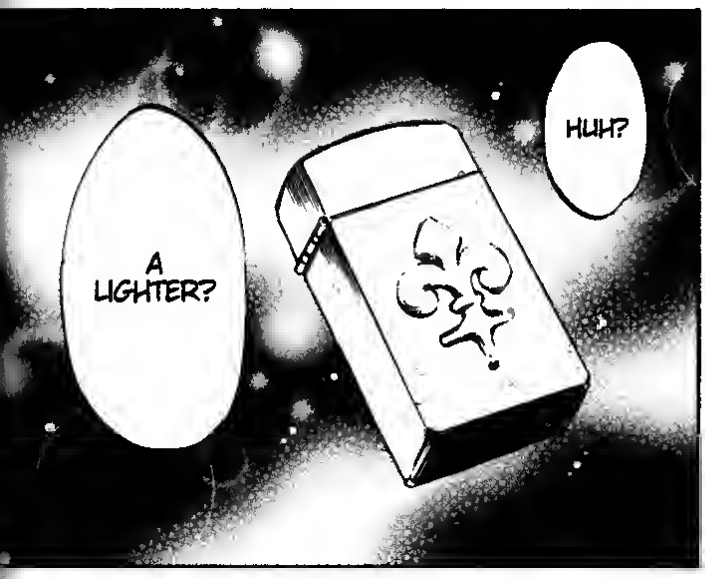

WELL, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE ONE JUST IN CASE, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT AS POWERFUL AS THE ONE OJISAMA MADE YOU, THOUGH.

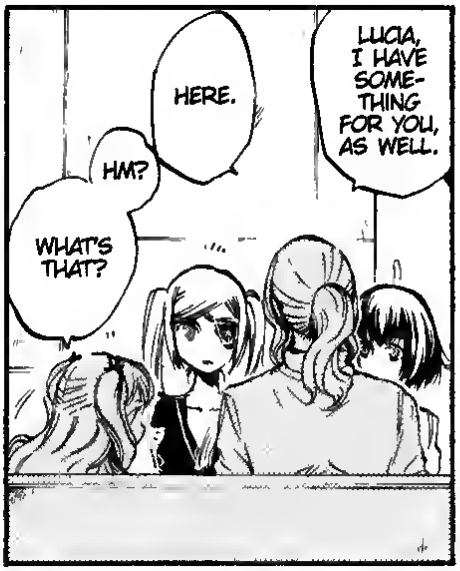
YEP! A BACKUP GUN FOR LUCIA...
AND A NEW BRACELET FOR SUMIRE!

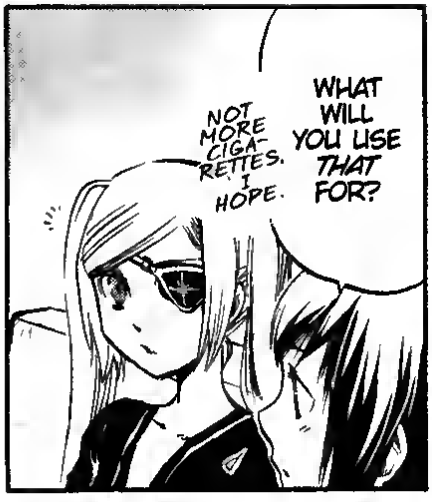
WOW... GOOD WORK, LOLA.
HEE HEE! I'M A GENIUS. ADMIT IT!
INSTEAD, I MADE IT LIGHTER AND EASIER FOR YOU TO SHOOT WITH YOUR OFF-HAND.
IT WON'T HAVE MUCH RECOIL, EITHER.
JUST KIDDING. GRANDPA "STOPPED IN" TO HAVE A LOOK AND HAD SOME PRETTY STIFF CRITICISMS FOR ME...
SO THAT KINDA ENCOUR-AGED ME TO WORK HARDER.
I'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN STILL.
LOLA ...
.....
ANYWAY!
NEXT IS SUMIRE'S NEW BRACELET!
FIRST OFF, IT'S OBVI-OUSLY A LOT NICER-LOOKING THAN THE ORIGINAL.
I USED A MUCH STRONGER MATERIAL FOR IT TOO, SO IT SHOULD BE STURDIER.


JUST TO REITERATE, SUMIRE-KUN, WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT MIXING THE VACCINES WILL NOT CAUSE YOU ANY HARM...
BUT IT WOULD BE WISE TO EXPERIMENT MORE THOROUGHLY BEFORE TRYING IT IN BATTLE AGAIN.
YES, SIR!


AH...!
OH, AND IT'S DESIGNED TO DELIVER DOSES FROM TWO VACCINES AT THE SAME TIME, SHOULD YOU DESIRE.


HUH?
A LIGHTER?

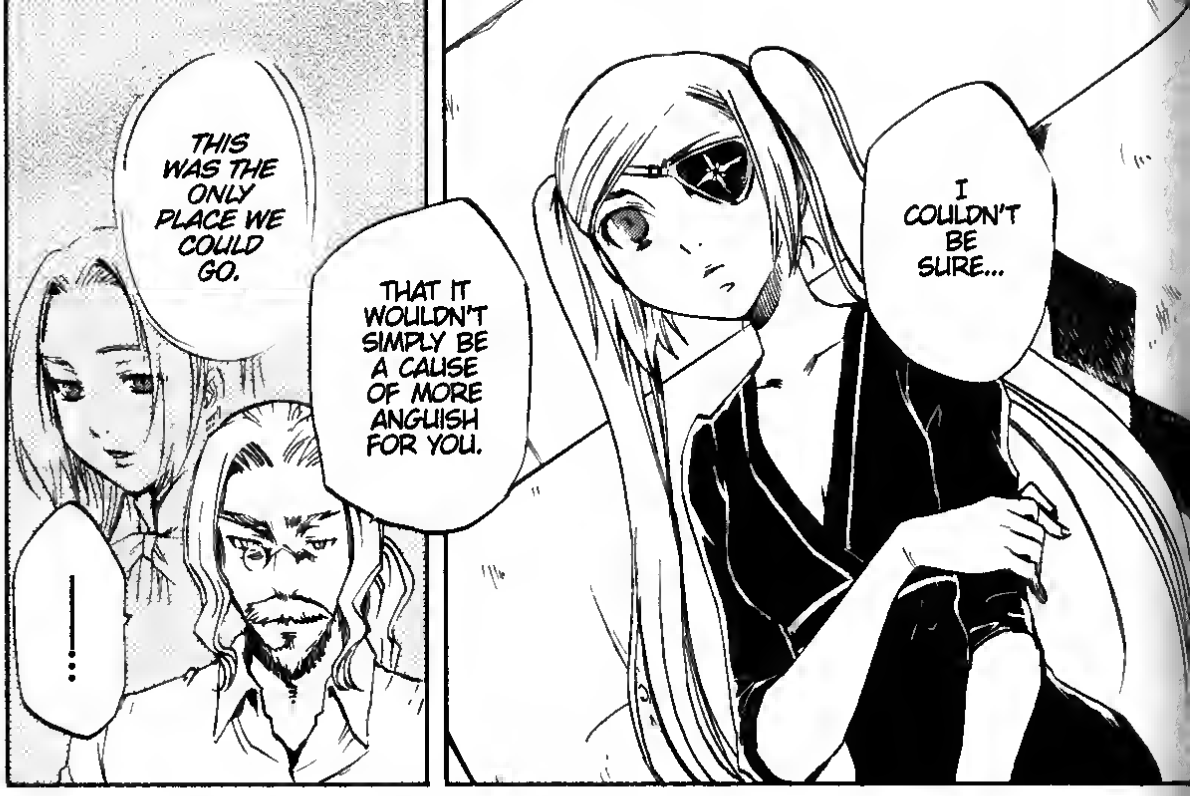

LUCIA, I HAVE SOME-THING FOR YOU, AS WELL.
HERE.
HM?
WHAT'S THAT?

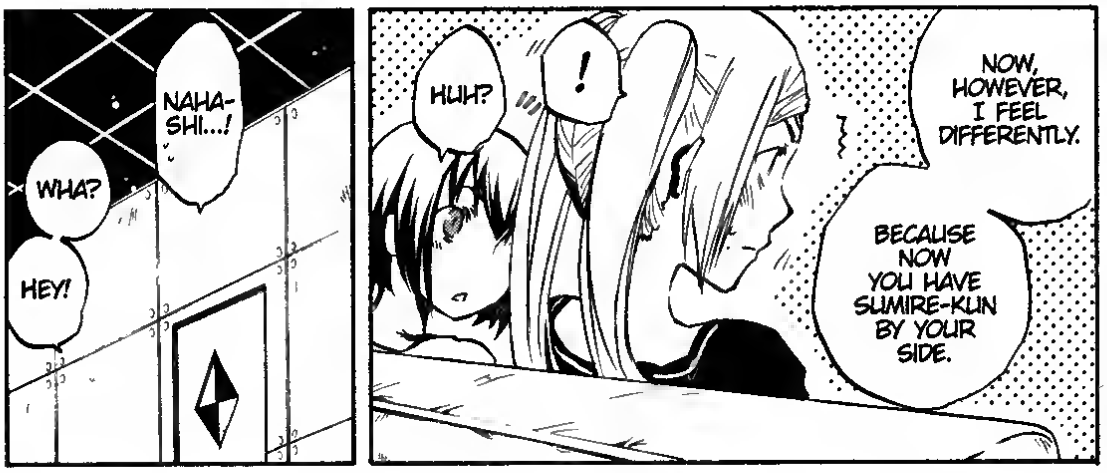

WHAT WILL YOU USE THAT FOR?
NOT MORE CIGA-RETTES. I HOPE.

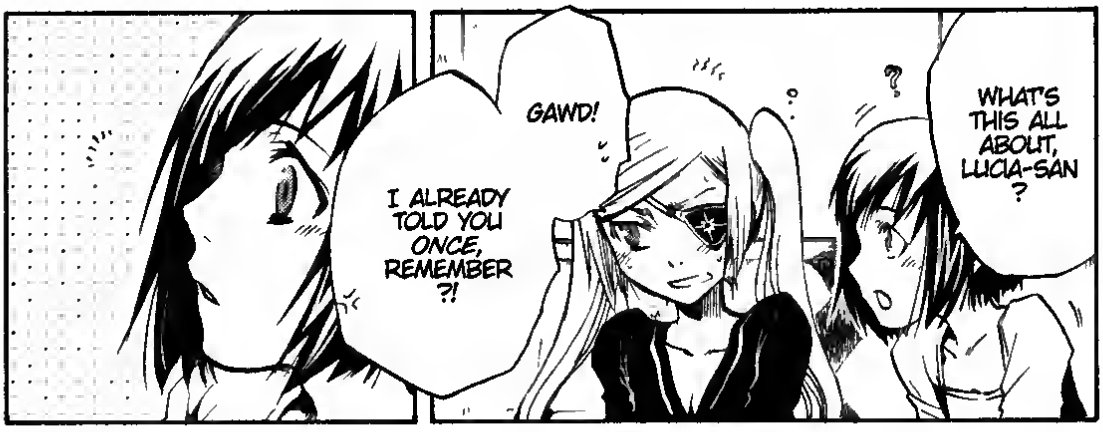
?
THANKS, NAHASHI.
?
AS YOU HAD REQUESTED, I HAVE MODIFIED IT TO TOLERATE BEING LIT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME.

SPARKS ?
YEAH.
IT'S FOR SPARKS.
CHK
SPARKS THAT'LL TURN INTO BIGGER FLAMES.
MUCH BIGGER FLAMES.
SINCE I CAN'T CONTROL THE POWER IN MY LEFT EYE...
ALL I'VE GOT TO RELY ON IS MY GUN.
HOW-EVER ...
CHK
!
?
WAIT...
YOU'RE GOING TO USE YOUR "POWER" ON IT?!

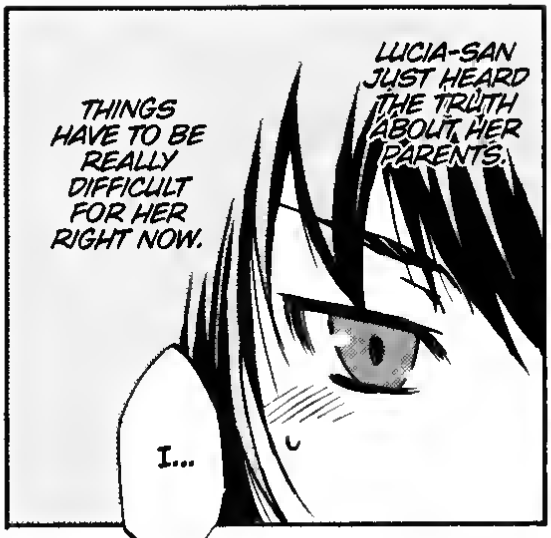
SO I THOUGHT ...
AND WE CAN'T KEEP LEANING ON SUMIRE'S BERSERKER POWERS IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION.
THERE ARE ENEMIES OUT THERE THAT A GUN CAN'T TOUCH.
I ALWAYS KNEW THERE HAD TO BE SOME MEANING TO THESE SIGILS.
SO I THINK THIS IS SOME-THING WORTH TRYING.
I'VE GOT THE SAME SIGILS AS LUCIF HAD.
LUCIF HAD POWERS HE COULD USE...
SO I PROBABLY HAVE THOSE SAME POWERS.
I MUST ADMIT...
I WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE POWER SLUMBERING WITHIN YOU.
BUT I... *HESITATED* IN TELLING YOU.

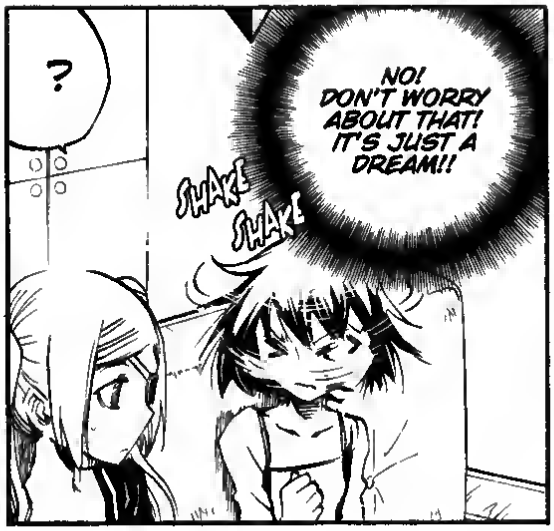

THIS WAS THE ONLY PLACE WE COULD GO.
THAT IT WOULDN'T SIMPLY BE A CAUSE OF MORE ANGUISH FOR YOU.
!...
I COULDN'T BE SURE...

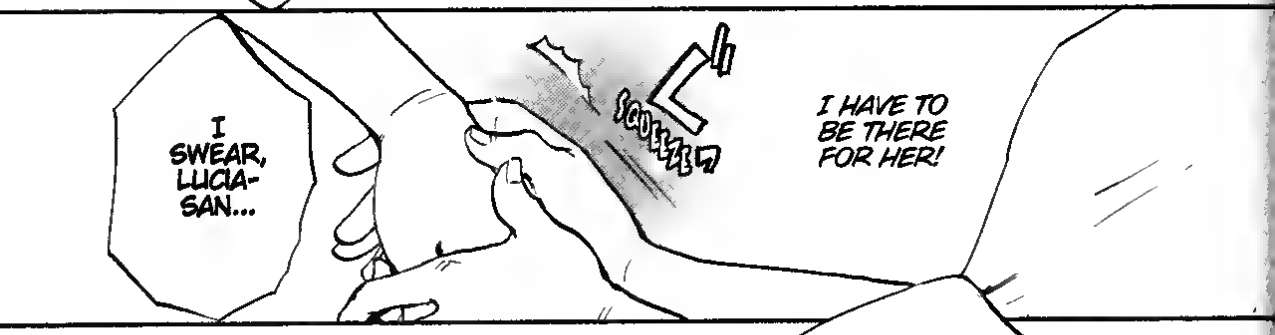

NAHA-SHI...!
WHA?
HEY!
HUH?
!
NOW, HOWEVER, I FEEL DIFFERENTLY.
BECAUSE NOW YOU HAVE SUMIRE-KUN BY YOUR SIDE.

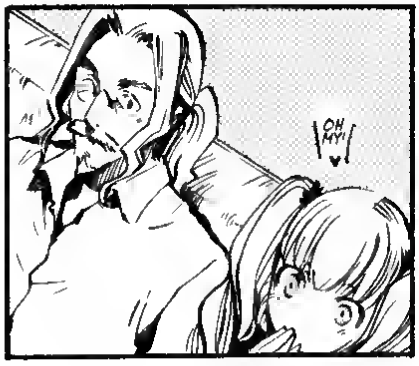

GAWD!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU ONCE, REMEMBER ?!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, LUCIA-SAN ?

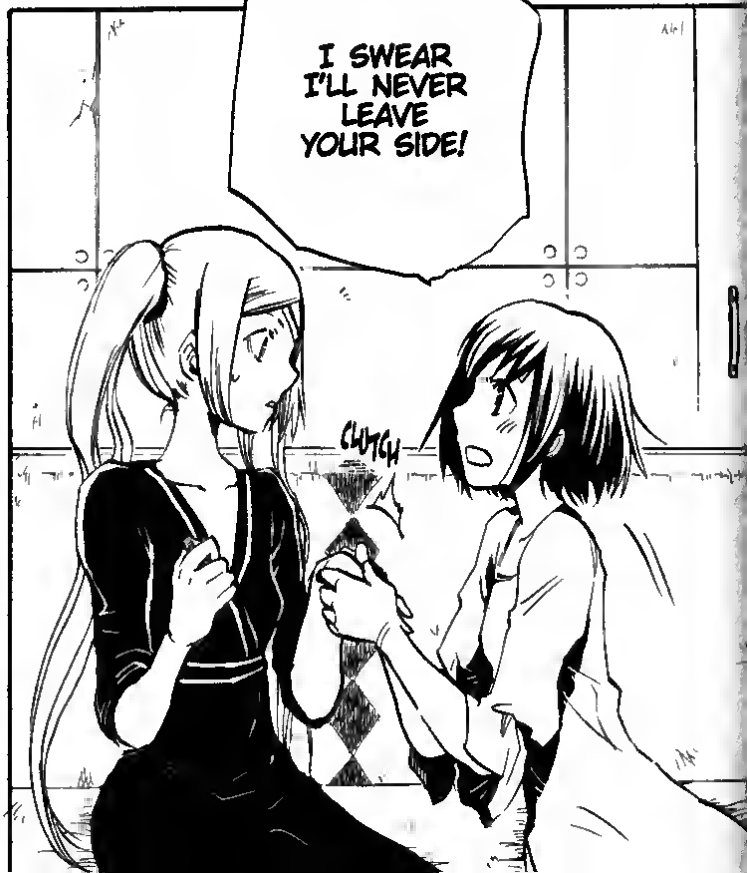
LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER.
OHHH ...!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE BOTH FEAR OUR POWERS...
BUT IF WE SHARE IT AND BEAR IT TOGETHER, SURELY IT WILL MAKE THE LOAD LIGHTER.
WHAT?
IF LUCIA-SAN AND I ARE TOGETHER, THEN...
BIG SMILE
AHH!
TWITCH
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT NIGHTMARE?
COULD IT MEAN...?

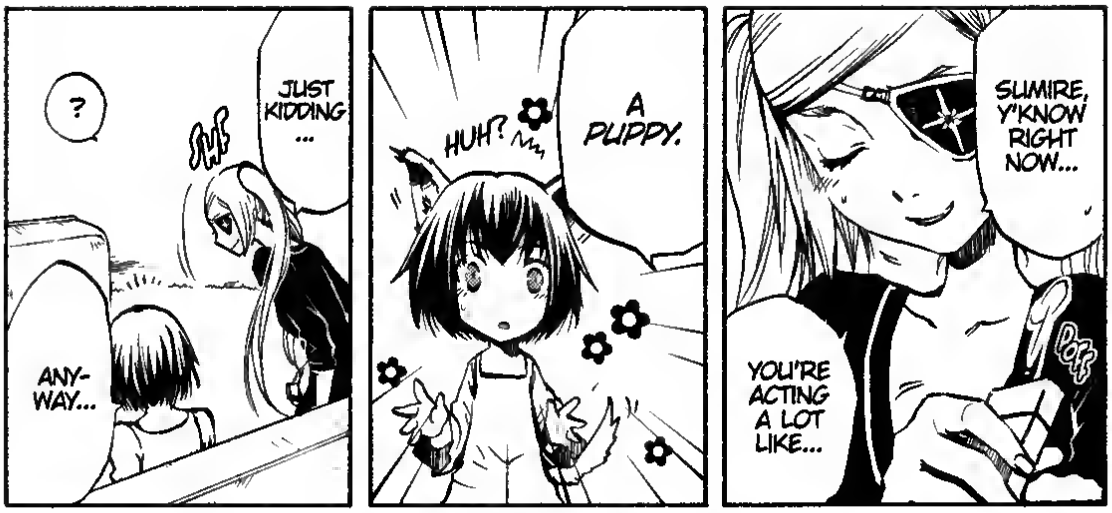

LUCIA-SAN JUST HEARD THE TRUTH ABOUT HER PARENTS.
THINGS HAVE TO BE REALLY DIFFICULT FOR HER RIGHT NOW.
I...

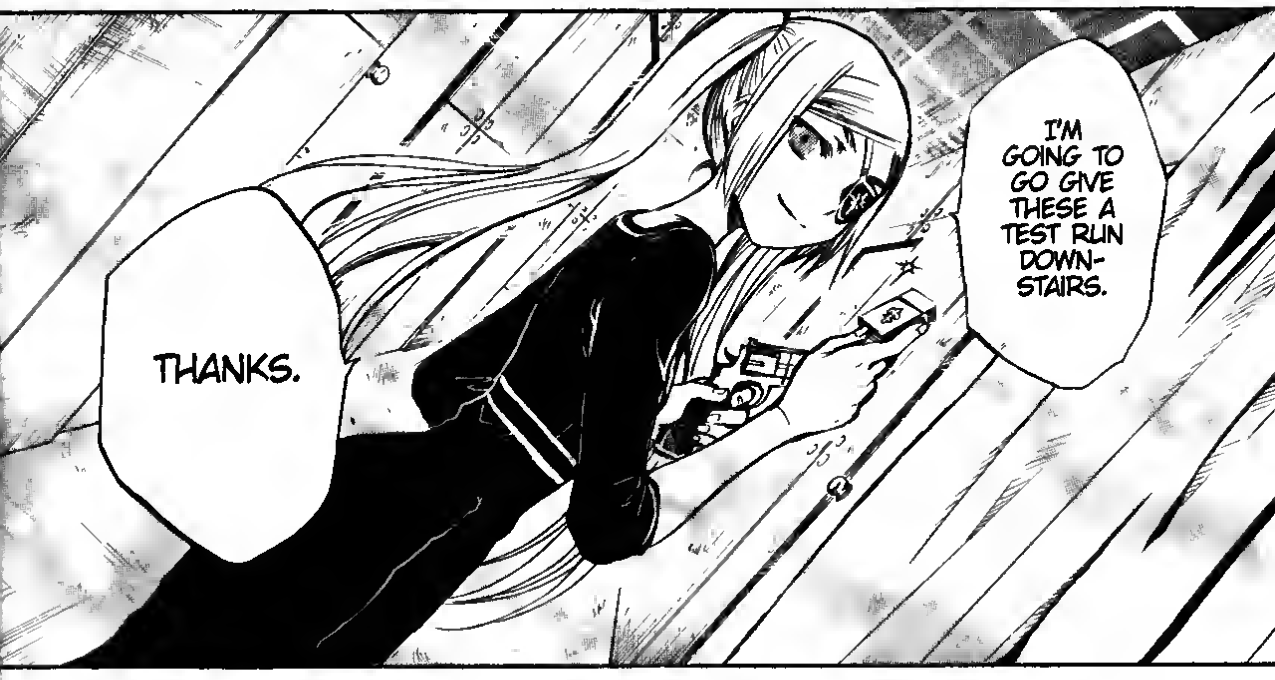

?
NO! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! IT'S JUST A DREAM!!
SHAKE SHAKE

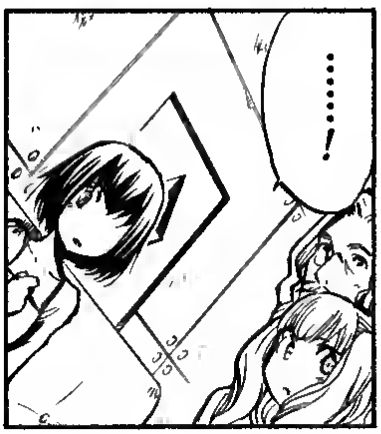

I SWEAR, LUCIA-SAN...
SCUUUUU
I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR HER!


OH MY!


I SWEAR I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE!
CLUTCH


SUMIRE, Y'KNOW RIGHT NOW...
YOU'RE ACTING A LOT LIKE...
A PUPPY.
HUH?
JUST KIDDING...
?
ANY-WAY...


I'M GOING TO GO GIVE THESE A TEST RUN DOWN-STAIRS.
THANKS.


.....!

NEVER LEAVE MY SIDE...
HUH.

I WONDER...
IF MOTHER WAS STILL ALIVE...

WAIT... WHAT AM I DOING, GETTING ALL MUSHY ABOUT SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME?
GRUMBLE
MUTTER
WOULD SHE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME?
YES.
PLIP PLIP PLIP
RAIN.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS LIKE.

BRIGHT...
RED RAIN.
YEE!
THIS...
IS A RAIN OF PURIFI-CATION.
HFF
HEH HEH HEH...

NOW...
I WILL RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR COCOON.
UH ...?
WHAT THE...?!
SONOKA-SAMA...?
COME...
KOFF

AAAA
AAAAA
AAAH!!!
HEH
...
SLUMP
WHMP
!!
I...
I COULDN'T MOVE.

TWITCH
BUT THEN ...
I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW LONG THE SILENCE LASTED...
SHLUK
TK
HE WHISPERED SOMETHING.
I REMEMBER SEEING...
THE LAST THING ...

WHA ...?!
WERE EYES AS COLD AND HARD AS ICE.
THEN DARK-NESS.
ZAAAAAAHHAAA

HURRY...
OPEN YOUR EYES.
WHOA.
WAIT A MINUTE...
THAT DAY...
I GAVE MY LIFE FOR YOU.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING ...?
BUT YOU... YOU GAVE ME A NEW BODY, A NEW LIFE.
THIS...

THIS IS MY BODY!!
STOP IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? GIVE MY BODY BACK!
SONOKA !!
BUT I CAN'T DO ANY-THING!
DAMMIT ...!
RRRGH!
I'M CONSCIOUS AND AWARE...

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...
SONOKA'S BODY WAS ALREADY LONG DEAD.
WAIT A MINUTE. WHEN I BLACKED OUT...
THEN THAT MEANS SONOKA'S SPIRIT WAS SHOVED INTO MY BODY...
BY HIM?!
WHEN I WOKE UP...
HE WAS SLEEPING HERE IN THIS ROOM.

BUT...
HE SURE HAD SOME WEIRD POWERS!
HE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN TAKAHANA SUMIRE'S WEAK SPOT.
I THOUGHT ...
HEH HEH HEH...
SOON, WE WILL SEE IT.
WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?
AND IT WILL BE BEAUTIFUL.
RMBL
THE LAND OF YOUR DESIRES WILL SOON BE YOURS.

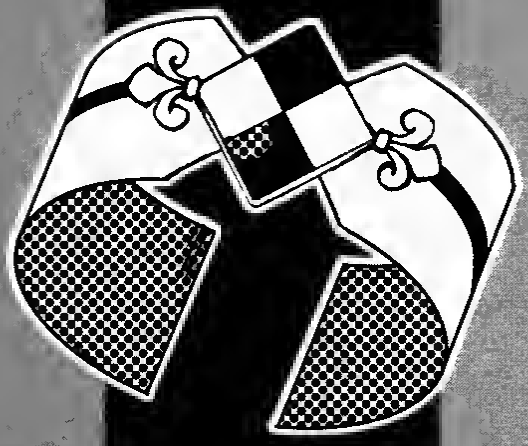
FLASH
RMBL
RMBL
TWITCH
KA-BOOM

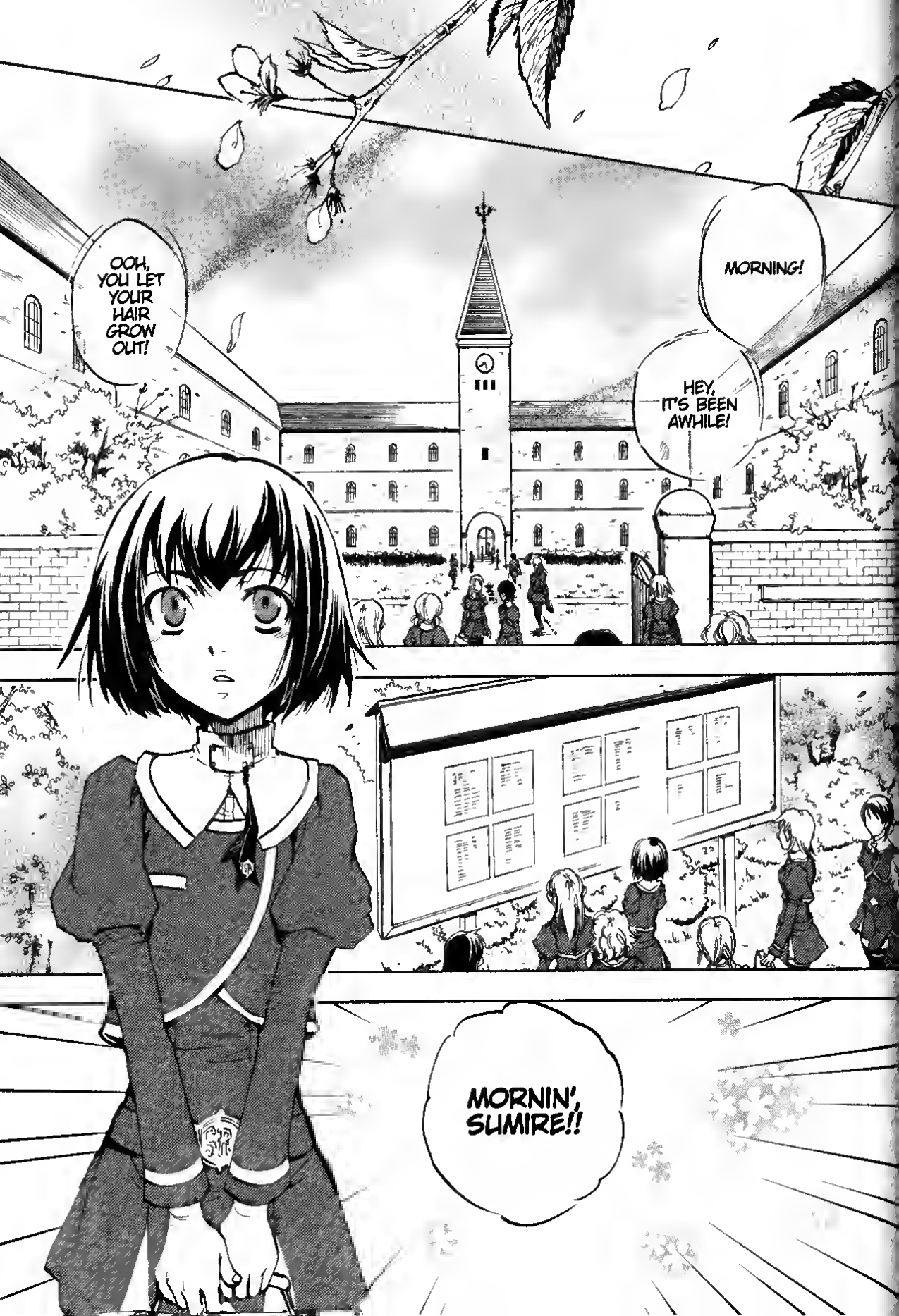
FASH
AH...
MY MASTER ...!

AION-
SAMA!!

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard




OOH, YOU LET YOUR HAIR GROW OUT!
MORNING!
HEY, IT'S BEEN AWHILE!
MORNIN', SUMIRE!!

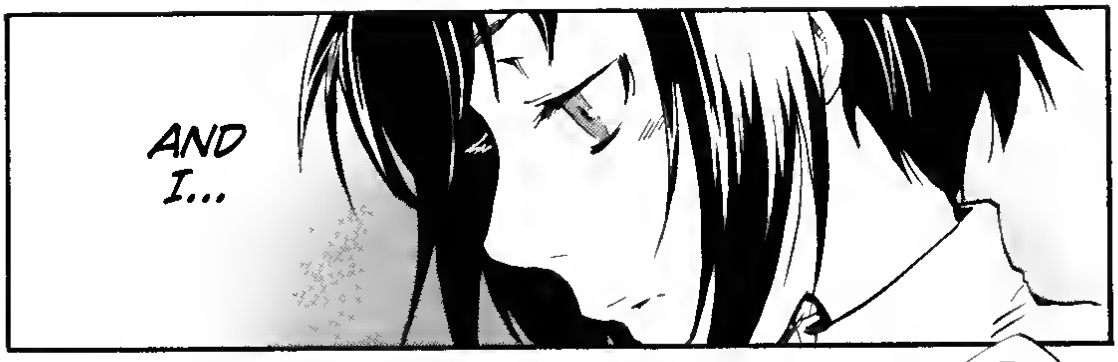
Piece 26
BLACK. MISSION.

UM... WELL...
OH HEY! HOW'D WE DO AS FAR AS HOMEROOMS GO?
IT'S A NEW SEMESTER, BUT IT'S STILL THE SAME OLD MIKA.
JEEZ... GIVE IT A REST, MIKA.
NAB
YEEP!
OOH!
I SO MISSED THESE HUGS!!
I-IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD! SEE?!
YEAH... IT'S GOING TO BE LONELY WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.
WELL THAT SUCKS!
BLEH!
WE'RE ONLY TWO CLASS-ROOMS AWAY FROM YOU!
AW, MAN...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE SUMIRE'S ALL BY HERSELF IN HOME-ROOM A.
NOT GOOD...
EH?!
YEAH, I WANNA KNOW TOO! HOW IS HE?!
OH! SPEAKING OF VISITATIONS OF LOVE, HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND, HMM?
"VISIT" ME...?
SMILE
OOH, THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T WORRY, SUMIRE! I'LL COME AND VISIT YOU DURING LUNCH BREAK EVERY DAY!

YOSHIKI-SAN...
NO...
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, REALLY.
YOU HAD WEEKS OF SPRING BREAK, GIRL!
YOU HAD TO HAVE DONE SOMETHING TOGETHER WITH HIM, RIGHT?
OH...
!!
SHOCK!
THAT... SUGGESTIVE SMILE...
YOUR... SLIGHTLY ADULT RESPONSE...
DON'T TELL ME YOU... YOU...
HM?
YOU...
S-SUMIRE...!
STAGGER
NO...!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!
SMB-SMB
SMB
AMAD FEELING

NOOOO!!
♥
MY SUMIRE'S BECOME A "REAL WOMAN" NOW!!!
HUH?!
M-MIKA-CHAN! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!
WHA?
HUH
AAAA UUUGH!!
ぎゃあああん
SO WERE YOU ALL LIKE, "YOSHIKI-SAN, I-I'M NOT READY," AND WAS HE ALL LIKE, "I'LL BE GENTLE," AND STUFF?!
ACK!!
MIKA-CHAN, ST-STOP IT...!!
EEEEEE!
BING BONG
OH!
THERE'S THE BELL. WE'D BETTER GET GOING TO HOME-ROOM!
BIIING BONG
HFF
HFF
LIMM... WE'RE ON THE THIRD FLOOR NOW, RIGHT?
C'MON, SUMIRE-CHAN! WE CAN WALK TOGETHER MOST OF THE WAY, AT LEAST.
O-OKAY...
FWF

HANDY P...
OH...
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE ALL FALLING.
I WONDER...
YOSHIKI-SAN TOLD ME HE DIDN'T LIKE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
NENE-CHAN HAS TO START WORRYING ABOUT HER ENTRANCE EXAMS.
AND RIKU-KUN WILL BE STARTING SIXTH GRADE.
TIME GOES BY SO FAST.
AND I'M A THIRD-YEAR NOW...
THIS WILL BE MY LAST YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH.
MAYBE HE SAID THAT BECAUSE WATCHING THEM BLOOM AND DISAPPEAR SO FAST...
MADE HIM FEEL LONELY AND LEFT BEHIND.


AND I...

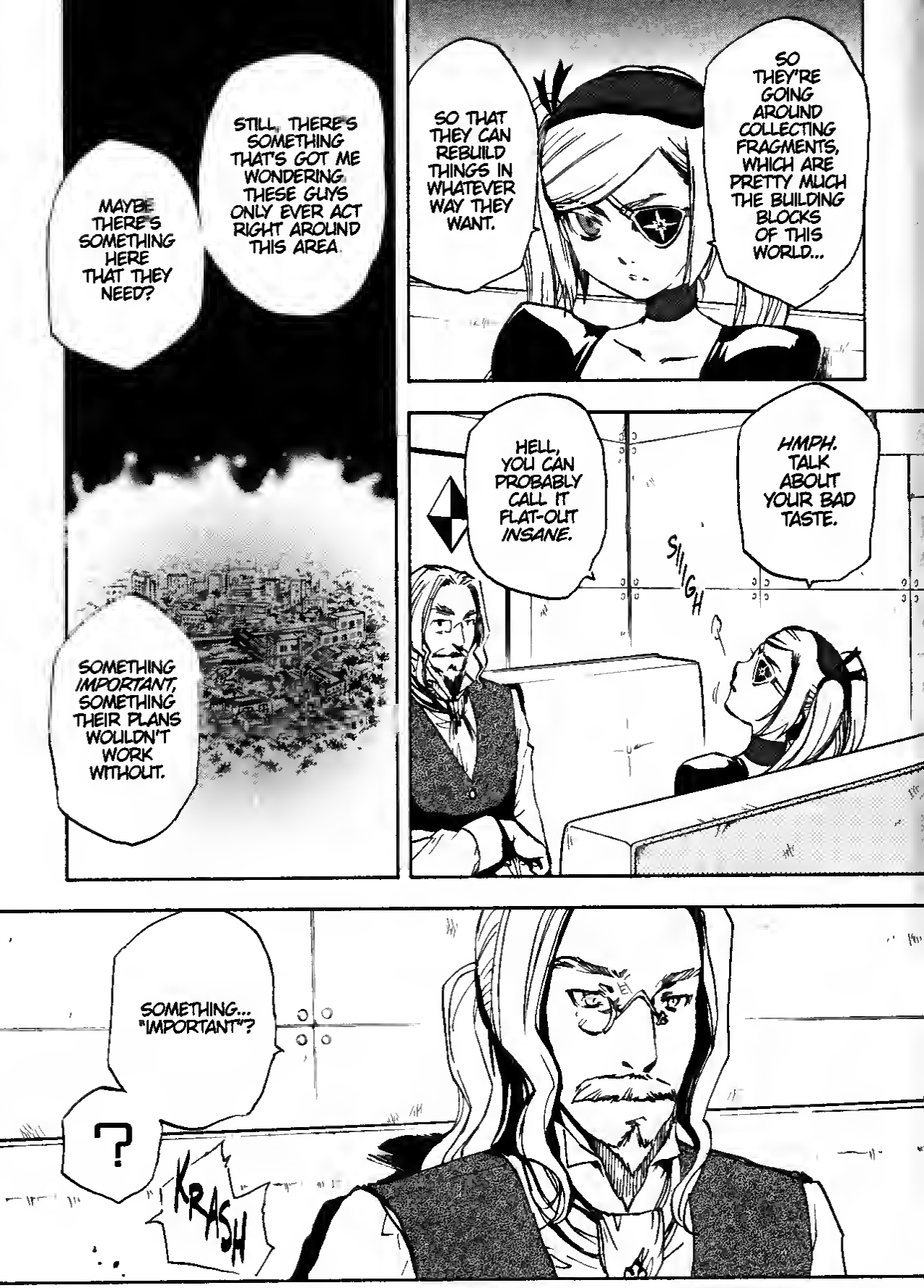
HEE HEE
NO... WE'LL BE OKAY.

LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER.

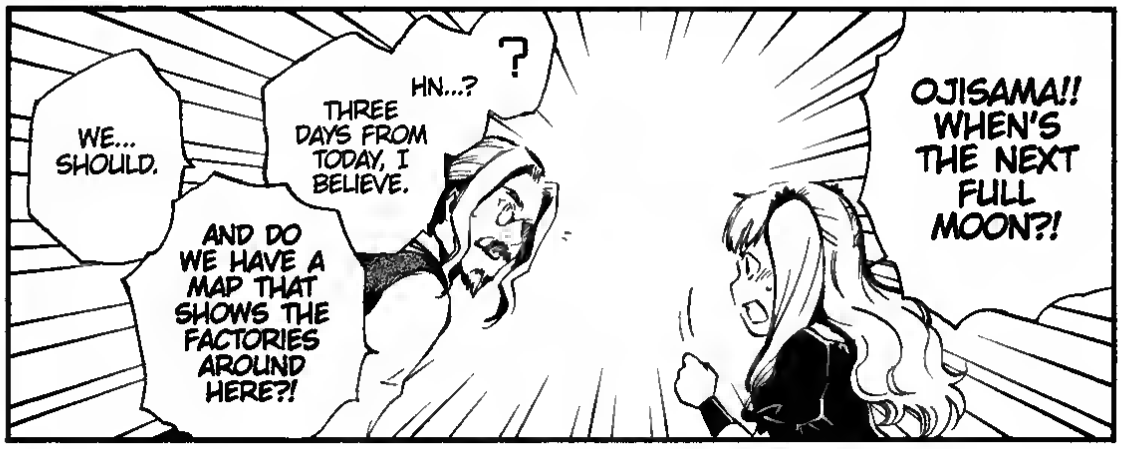
HUH ?!
I WAS NOT!! MIKA-CHAAAN !!
WHAT'RE YOU SMILING SO SMUGLY ABOUT, HMM?
A-HA!
YOU WERE RELIVING IT THERE FOR A SECOND, WEREN'T YOU?!
EEEE!
SUCH DIRTY THOUGHTS, SUMIRE!
RIGHT, LUCIA-SAN?

SUMIRE ?
SUMIRE-CHAN?
"STARE"
AH!

SO HOW DID IT GO?
VRMMM
NOTHING, BUT THE USUAL SMALL FRY.
SHEESH. IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO SEE WHERE THE ENEMY MIGHT BE COMING FROM.
INDEED. WE ALSO HAVE NO CLUES AS TO WHO "SONOKA" IS, NOR THE STRANGER IN THE CLOAK.
IN FACT, ALL WE DO KNOW...
IS THAT THEIR HUNT IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF, BUT SIMPLY A MEANS TO AN END.
THAT END BEING TO DECONSTRUCT THE WORLD.


SO THEY'RE GOING AROUND COLLECTING FRAGMENTS, WHICH ARE PRETTY MUCH THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THIS WORLD...
SO THAT THEY CAN REBUILD THINGS IN WHATEVER WAY THEY WANT.
HMPH. TALK ABOUT YOUR BAD TASTE.
SHIGH
HELL, YOU CAN PROBABLY CALL IT FLAT-OUT INSANE.
STILL, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S GOT ME WONDERING THESE GUYS ONLY EVER ACT RIGHT AROUND THIS AREA.
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT THEY NEED?
SOMETHING IMPORTANT, SOMETHING THEIR PLANS WOULDN'T WORK WITHOUT.
SOMETHING... "IMPORTANT"?
?
KRASH

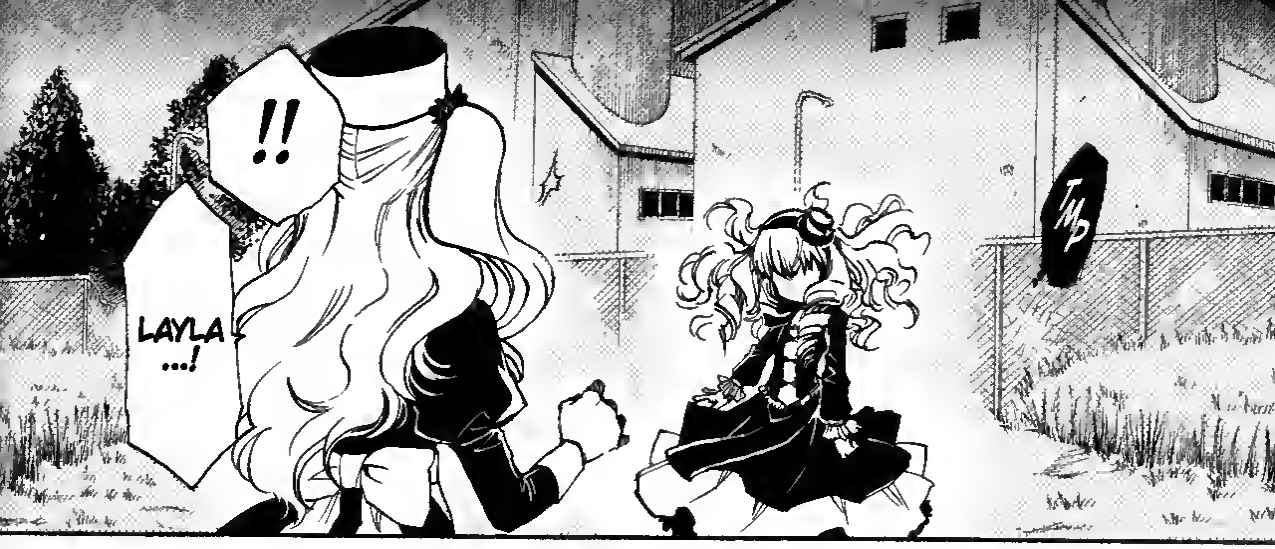
LOLA...?
SLUMP
NH...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THE MOON...
MUMBLE
THREE...
MUMBLE
PILLARS...?
MUMBLE
NO... SMOKESTACKS!
MUMBLE
A WAREHOUSE, MAYBE...?
MUMBLE
OR A FACTORY?
AND A FULL MOON...

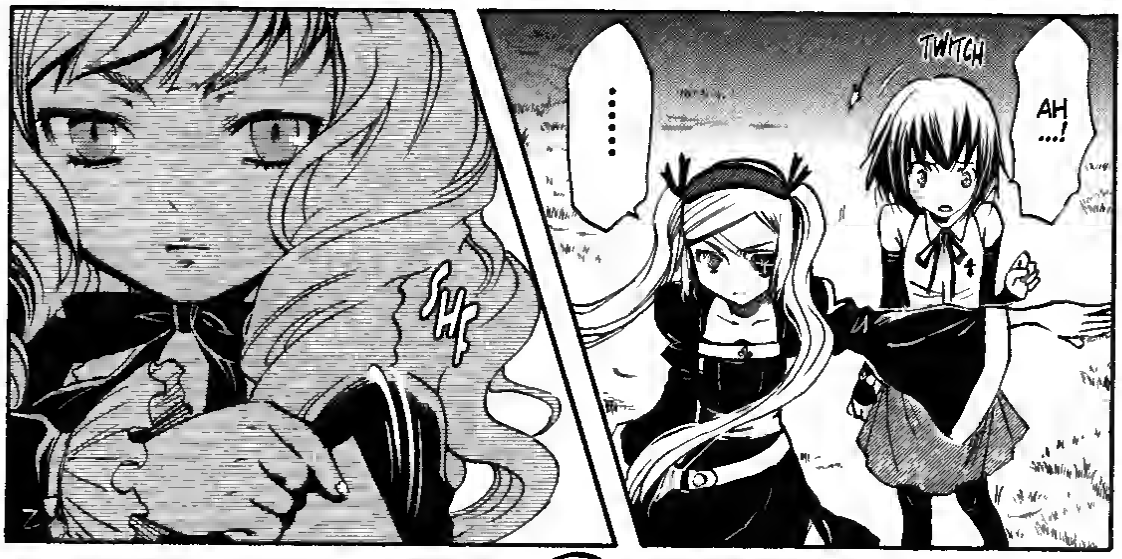

OJISAMA!! WHEN'S THE NEXT FULL MOON?!
HN...?
?
THREE DAYS FROM TODAY, I BELIEVE.
WE... SHOULD.
AND DO WE HAVE A MAP THAT SHOWS THE FACTORIES AROUND HERE?!

I HAVE TO GO.
I GOT A MESSAGE.
MY CONNECTION WITH LAYLA IS MOSTLY CUT OFF...
BUT SHE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH FOR A SECOND.
THREE DAYS FROM NOW...
AT THAT FACTORY...
LAYLA WILL BE WAITING FOR ME.

ARE YOU SURE LOLA-CHAN WILL BE ALL RIGHT BY HERSELF?
WHAT IF THEY TRY TO GRAB HER?
WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER, JUST IN CASE.
LAYLA!
.....
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE!

TOK
FD
ｷｬｱ...
FWISH
FWOO


!!
LAYLA ...!
IMP

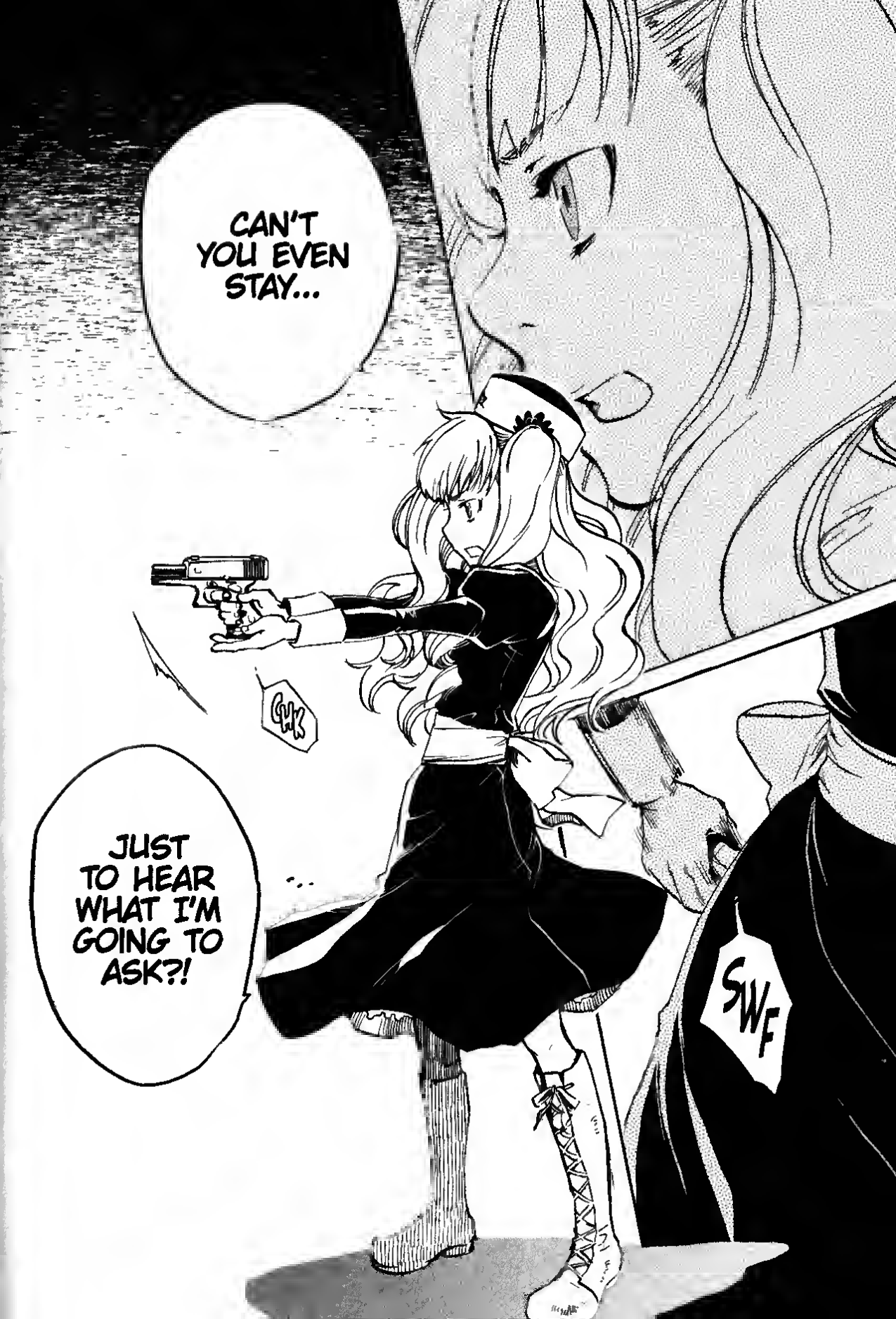

HF
TWITCH
AH ...!
.....

?!
HERE.
ZWSH

BUT...! LAYLA?!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU--
GAH!!
BOFF

HUH...? WHAT'S THIS?
WHIRL
MY BUSINESS HERE IS FINISHED.

LAYLA ...!!
SHRIP
HEY!!
AREN'T YOU HERE SO WE CAN GO BACK TOGETHER ?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
.....
SNAP
LAYLA!


CAN'T YOU EVEN STAY...
CHK
JUST TO HEAR WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK?!
SWF

HEH.
SLEEPING BULLETS...?
SMF
BLAM!!
WELL...
THEN I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO FORCE YOU!!
BOMF
YEEK!
RRGH ...!!

BLAM
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT POWER ?!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT POWERS LIKE THAT!!
BLAM
WHY YOU ...!
STUPID LAYLA!!
GRIND
.....
BOW
BOW
WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER... RIGHT?!
BLAM BLAM
BOW
BOW
SUMIRE.
I KNOW.
WE WERE ALWAYS ...
THE SAME, RIGHT ...?
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
WHY ...?
SHK
CHAK
SHK

DON'T GO...
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN!!
KLK
KLK
.....
WELL THEN ...
WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG WITH ME?
COME WITH ME TO SEE AION-SAMA.

HUH...?
WAVER
COME, LOLA.
THEN THE TWO OF US...
CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
HAH
LOLA, GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!!
UM...
.....
BUMP
BUMP

SUMIRE! LUCIA!!
BOOM
!
TCH
SHF
LEAVE.

SUMIRE...
PSHHH...
YOU DO NOT MIND, RIGHT? IT WAS ONLY ENOUGH TO STUN TH--
?!
MUTTER
YOU CANCELED OUT MY FLARE?
SUMIRE, ARE YOU OKAY?!
EHEH
Y-YEAH. IT'S JUST THAT TAKING TWO VACCINES AT ONCE IS A BIT... HARSH.
THANK GOODNESS, I WAS IN TIME...
WAVE
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
CLACK
ZING
UNH ...!

HMPH
HOW TEDIOUS.
WHIRL
!
LAYLA ...!
I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M NEXT UP.
BRB
SWF
?!
SHWOO
GLARE
NH!
SWF
SWF
!

MY GOD...
SO YOU HAVE GAINED PYROKENETIC POWERS, LUCIA.
AND WHAT ARE THESE SUP-POSED TO BE?
FWOOO
THEY'RE TINY.
BUT IT IS NO USE...!
YOUR POWERS STILL HAVEN'T FULLY MATURED YET!!
FWH
HEF
WHAT REAL FIRE IS!
HERE. LET ME SHOW YOU...

FRKSH
?!
FZZZ
FZZZ
WHAT ...?
IMPOS-SIBLE!
I CANNOT USE MY FIRE?!
A KEKKAI ?!
NO... THERE ISN'T ONE!
NGH ...!
CAN'T... HOLD IT... MUCH LONGER...!
.....?
SILENCE

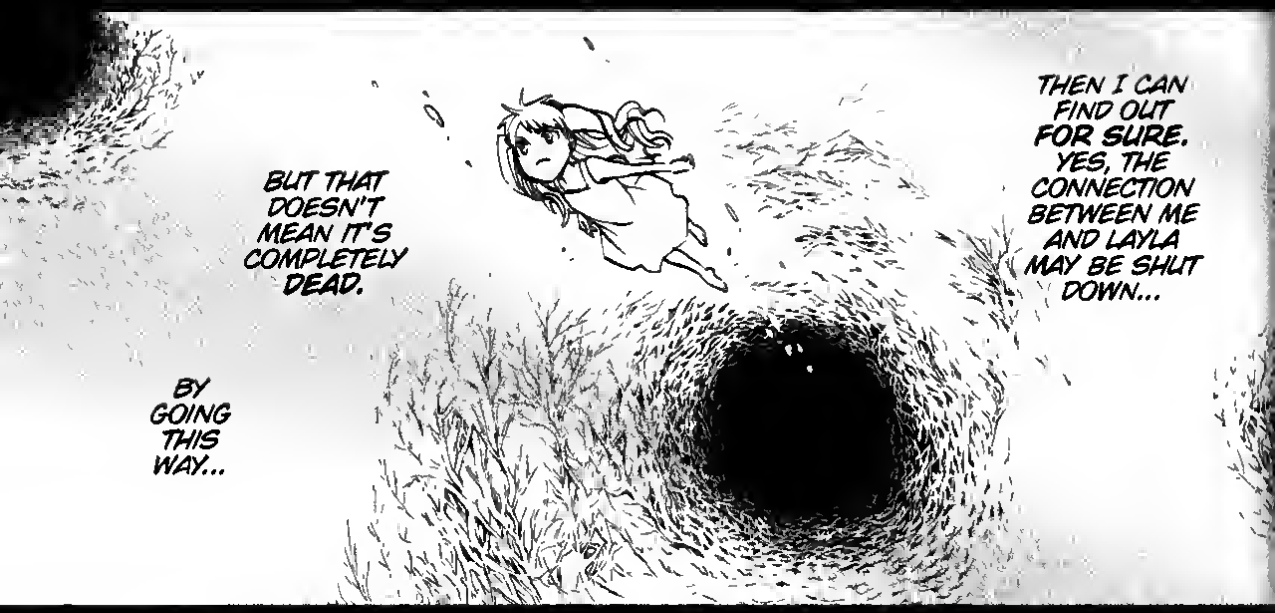
THIS FLAME IS SOME-HOW DOING IT?
FWOOO
GLARE
THEN, THAT MUST MEAN...
LUCIA-SAN?!
GRIND
AGH...
UNH...
COULD IT REALLY BE TAKING THE FIRE ELEMENTS IN THIS AREA...
AND ABSORBING THEM ALL?!
SORRY, SUMIRE...
YOU NEED TO TAKE IT FROM HERE...
?!
R-RIGHT!
I...
CAN'T HOLD ON TO IT ANY--

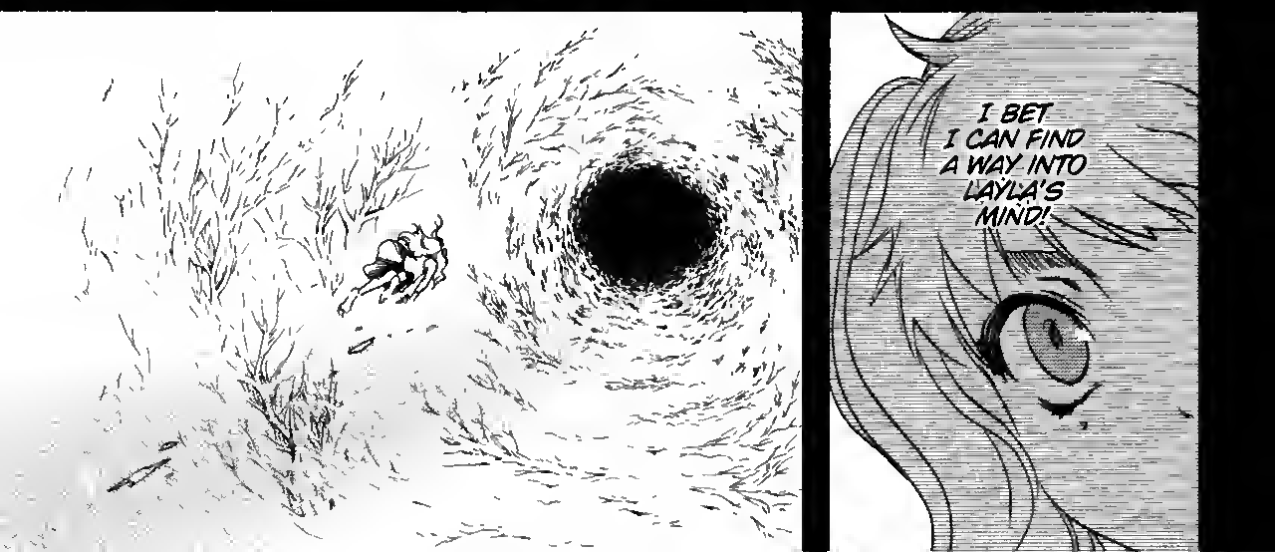
AAAAGGH!!!
OOSH
NGAH...!!
FWOO
WHP
YEEK!
FWOO
?!
FWISH
NGK...!
LUCIA?!
STAGGER
H-HOW IS SHE...?
ER... SHE'S FINE.

LAYLA.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
LOLA ...
PSHHHH
YOU'D UNDER-STAND.
I DO NOT THINK...
OH...
ZING
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
YANK
.....

I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO LEARN!!
WSH
?!
WAVER
WHAT THE HELL...?!
SLUMP
LOLA-CHAN?!
I GOT IN!
YES...!

WITH IT, EVEN THOUGH MY DIRECT CONNECTION WITH LAYLA HAS BEEN SEVERED...
GRANDPA'S CRYSTAL...
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DETOUR THROUGH GRANDPA'S ABILITY.
NO GOOD!
LOLA
LAYLA
WORKS!
MAYBE?
GRANDPA


BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S COMPLETELY DEAD.
BY GOING THIS WAY...
THEN I CAN FIND OUT FOR SURE. YES, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ME AND LAYLA MAY BE SHUT DOWN...


I BET I CAN FIND A WAY INTO LAYLA'S MIND!

FOUND IT!!
!!
ALL I NEED TO DO IS GO THROUGH THIS GATE...
AND I'LL BE INSIDE LAYLA'S...

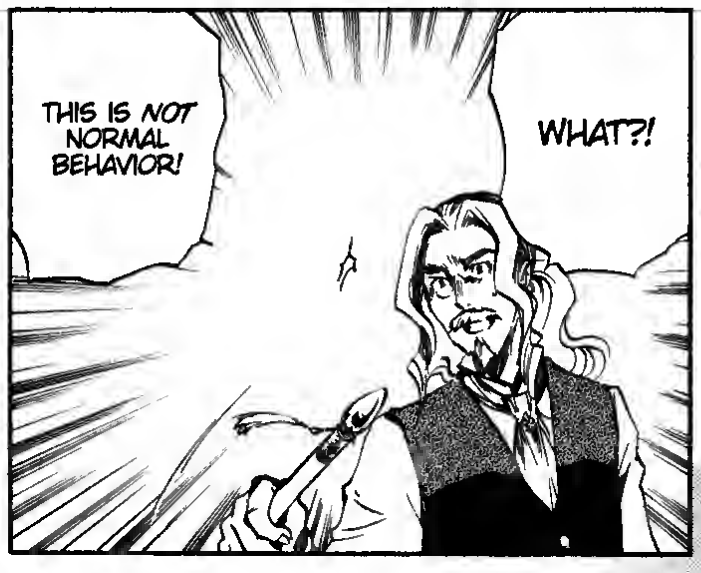
HELLO
?!
WHAT THE HECK? IT'S PITCH-BLACK IN HERE!
WHISH
HUH...?

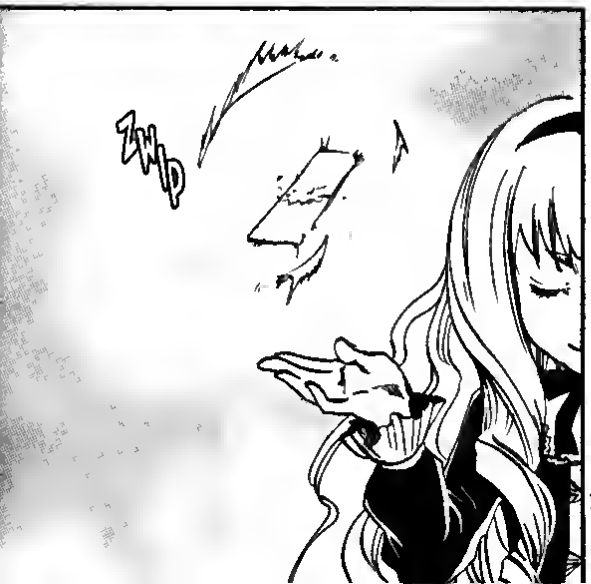
WHA
?!
FSH
THAT GUY...
HHH
HE'S THE ONE WHO...!
GLARE
MY, MY. JUST AWAKENED, AND ALREADY YOU'RE LEAVING?
YOU ARE SUCH A BUSY PERSON, AION-SAMA.
HM...?
PLOMP
!

NEITHER OF THEM HAVE ANY OBVIOUS WOUNDS...
MH...?
HEH HEH.
IT WOULD BE WISE IF WE TOOK THEM HOME TO REST.
RIGHT. LET'S GET THEM TO THE CAR.

HEH HEH HEH HEH.
FWUM
?!

OH DEAR...


THIS IS NOT NORMAL BEHAVIOR!
WHAT?!

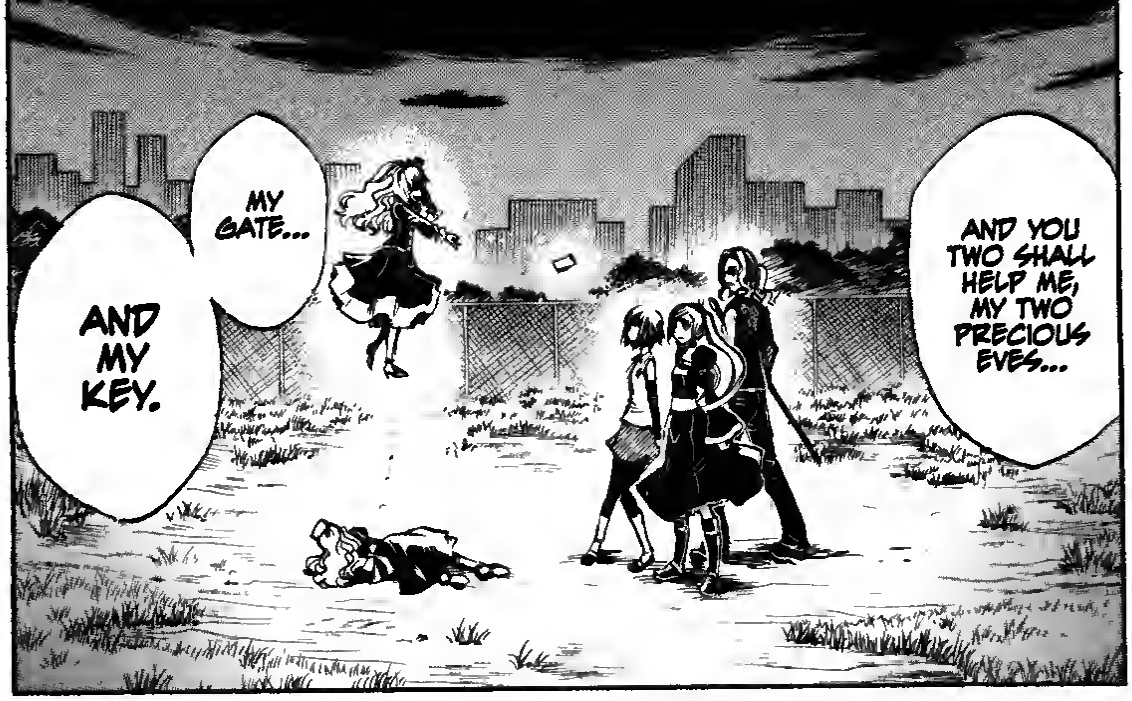

ZWIP

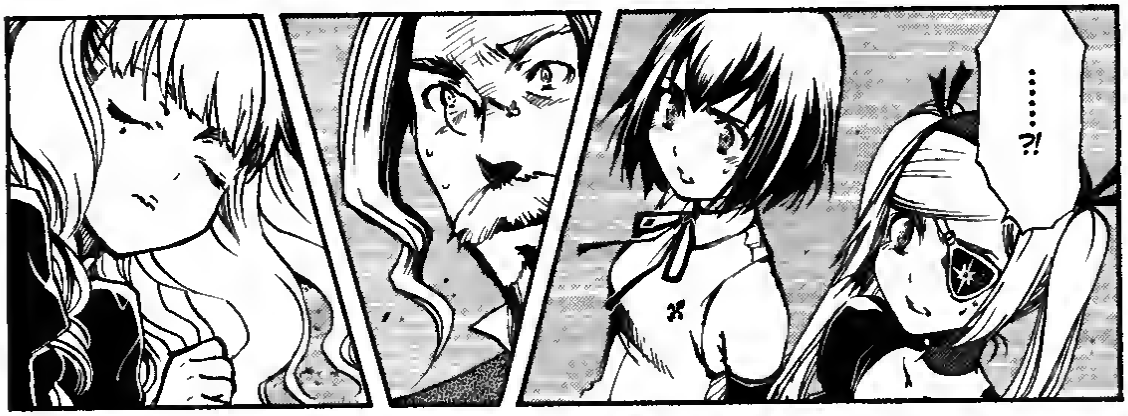
FWIP
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT TO IN WRITING THAT LOVE LETTER...
WHAT A CALLOUS THING TO DO.

I AM AION.
I AM HE WHO WILL GUIDE THIS WORLD TO ITS TRUE FORM.
AND YOU TWO SHALL HELP ME, MY TWO PRECIOUS EVES...
MY GATE...
AND MY KEY.

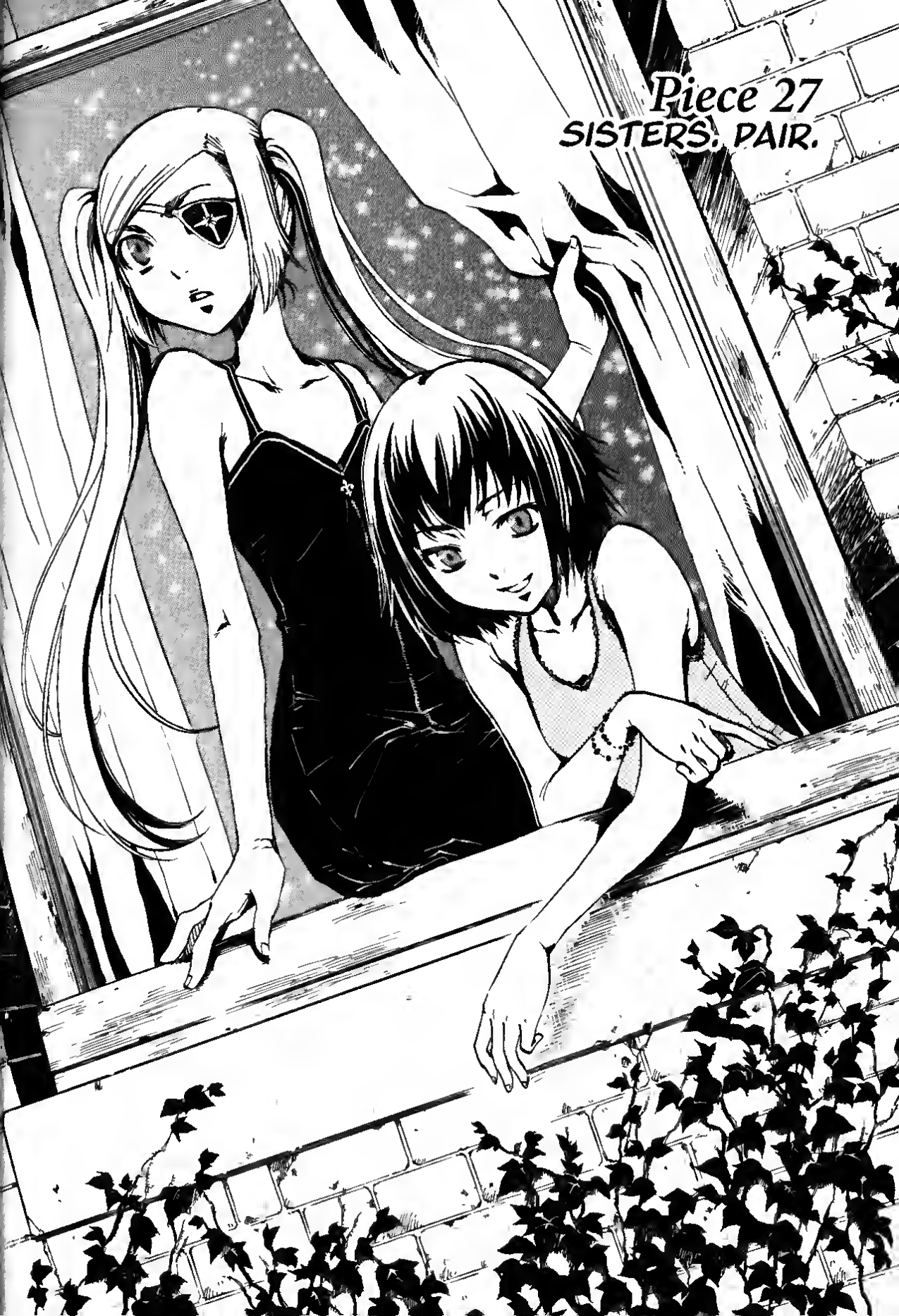
Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard


MY GATE...
AND MY KEY.
AND YOU TWO SHALL HELP ME, MY TWO PRECIOUS EVES...


.....?!

VMMM
I CAN HARDLY WAIT...
!!
FOR THE DAY TO COME.

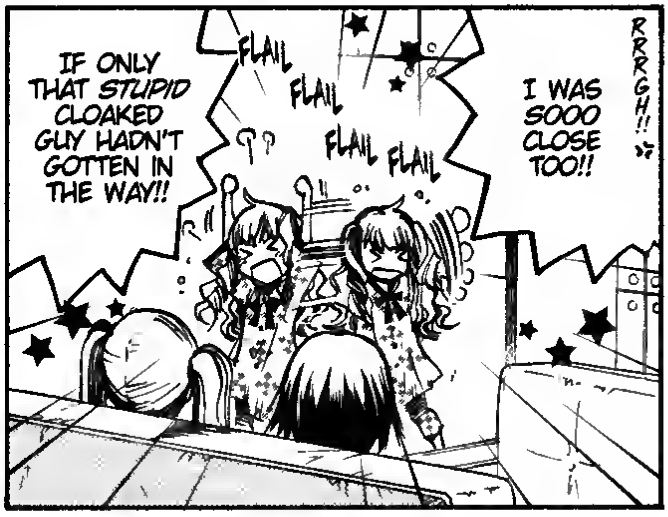


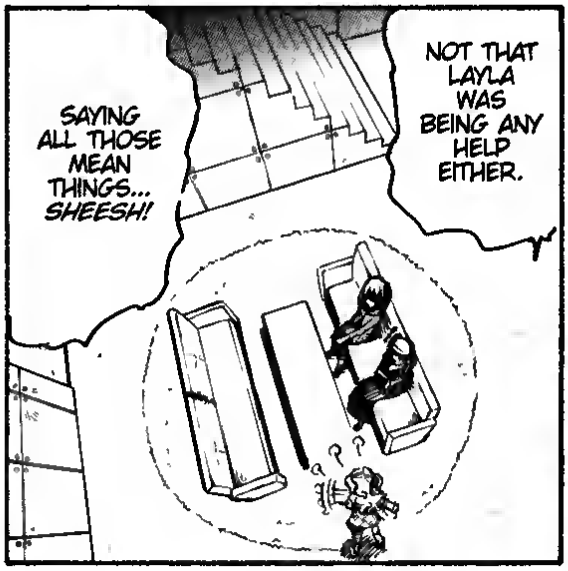
Piece 27
SISTERS. PAIR.

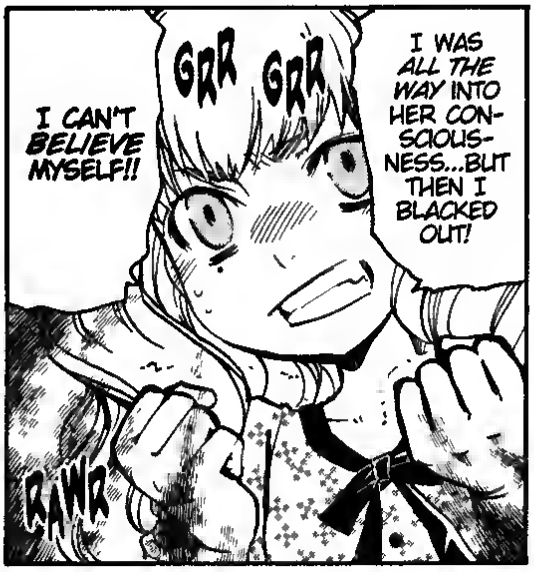
FWISH
WAIT! COME BACK HERE...
AION...
.....

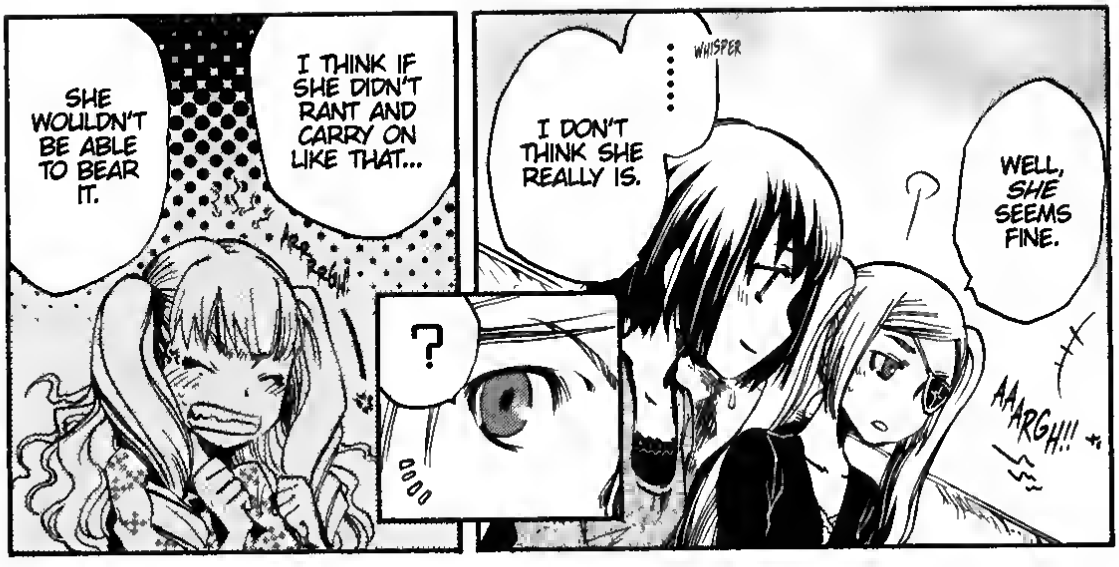
AAAALIGH!!!
DRAT, DRAT, DRAT!!
GRAWR!!

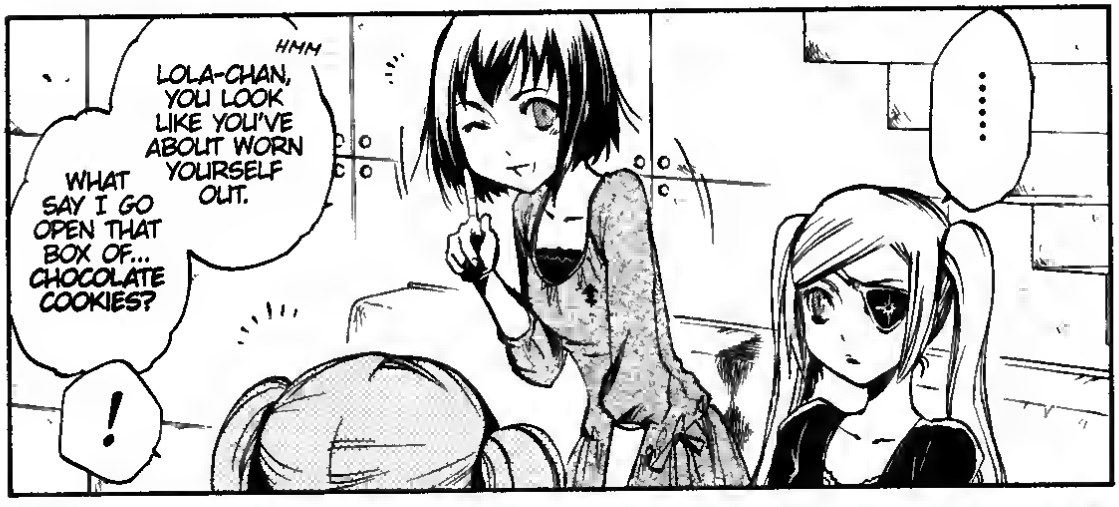
IT WAS THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR ME TO BRING LAYLA BACK!!
.....

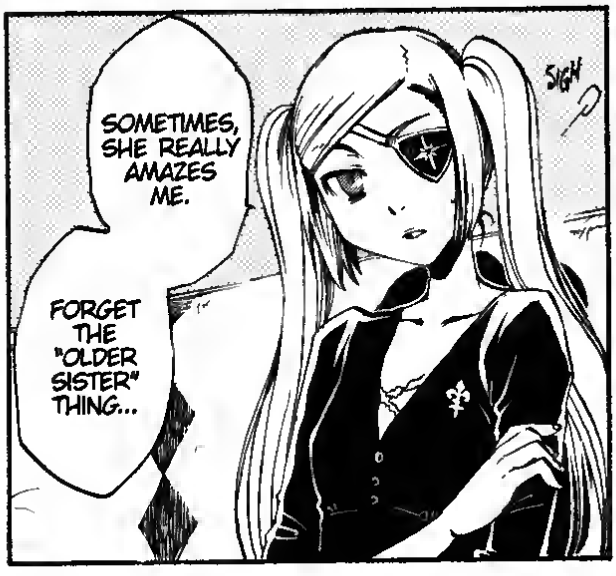

IF ONLY THAT STUPID CLOAKED GUY HADN'T GOTTEN IN THE WAY!!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
I WAS SOOO CLOSE TOO!!
RRRGH!!


SAYING ALL THOSE MEAN THINGS... SHEESH!
NOT THAT LAYLA WAS BEING ANY HELP EITHER.

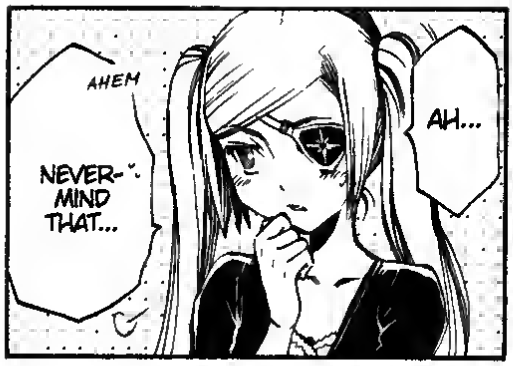

I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF!!
GRR
GRR
I WAS ALL THE WAY INTO HER CONSCIOUSNESS...BUT THEN I BLACKED OUT!
RAWR

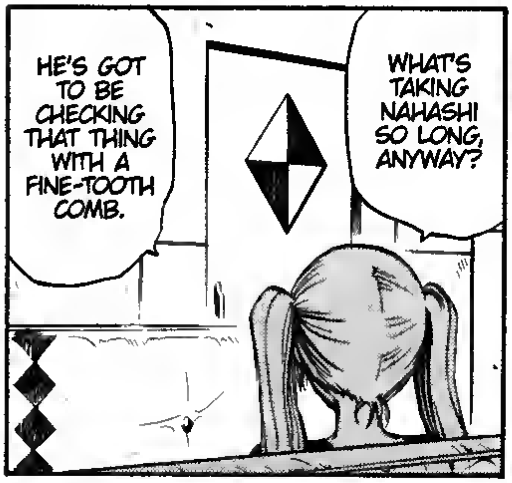

I THINK IF SHE DIDN'T RANT AND CARRY ON LIKE THAT...
SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.
WHISPER
I DON'T THINK SHE REALLY IS.
WELL, SHE SEEMS FINE.
?
AAARGH!!!

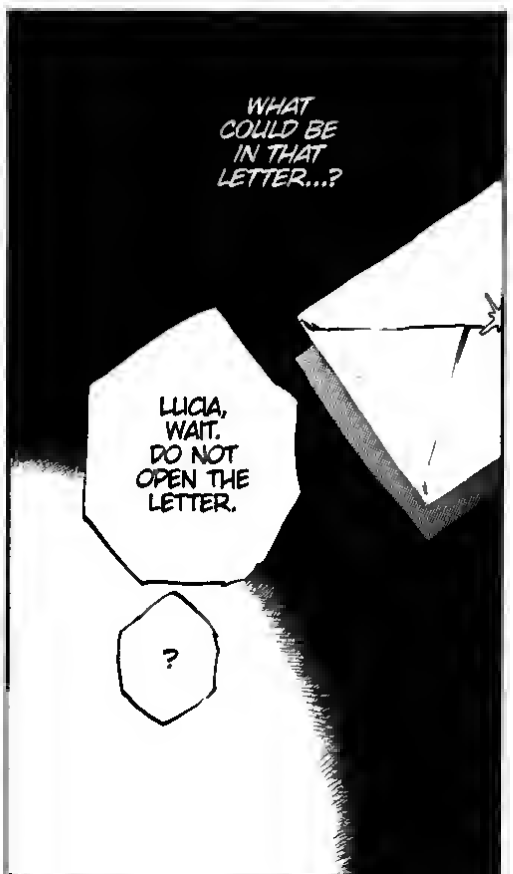

HMM
LOLA-CHAN, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE ABOUT WORN YOURSELF OUT.
WHAT SAY I GO OPEN THAT BOX OF... CHOCOLATE COOKIES?
!


SIGH
SOMETIMES, SHE REALLY AMAZES ME.
FORGET THE "OLDER SISTER" THING...

OOOH! I WANT SOME! I WANT SOME!
HA HA HA..
OKAY.
WAIT JUST A MINUTE WHILE I PUT ON SOME TEA.


AHEM
NEVER-MIND THAT...
AH...

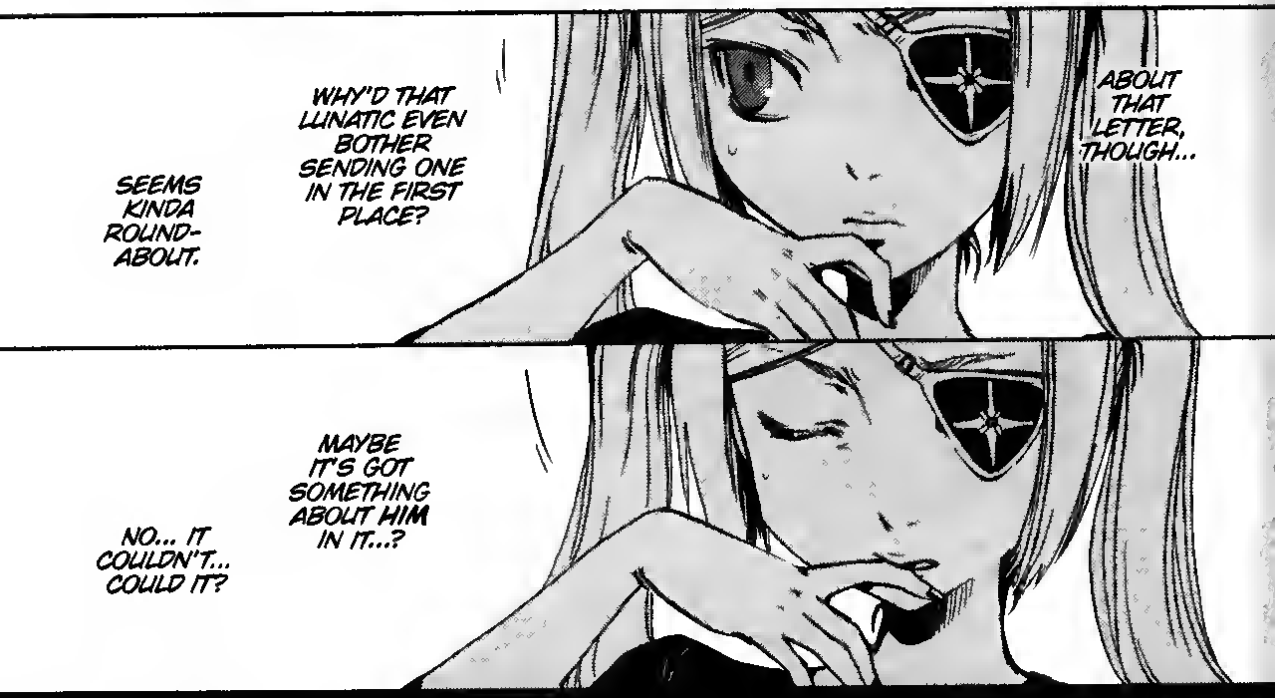

HE'S GOT TO BE CHECKING THAT THING WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB.
WHAT'S TAKING NAHASHI SO LONG, ANYWAY?

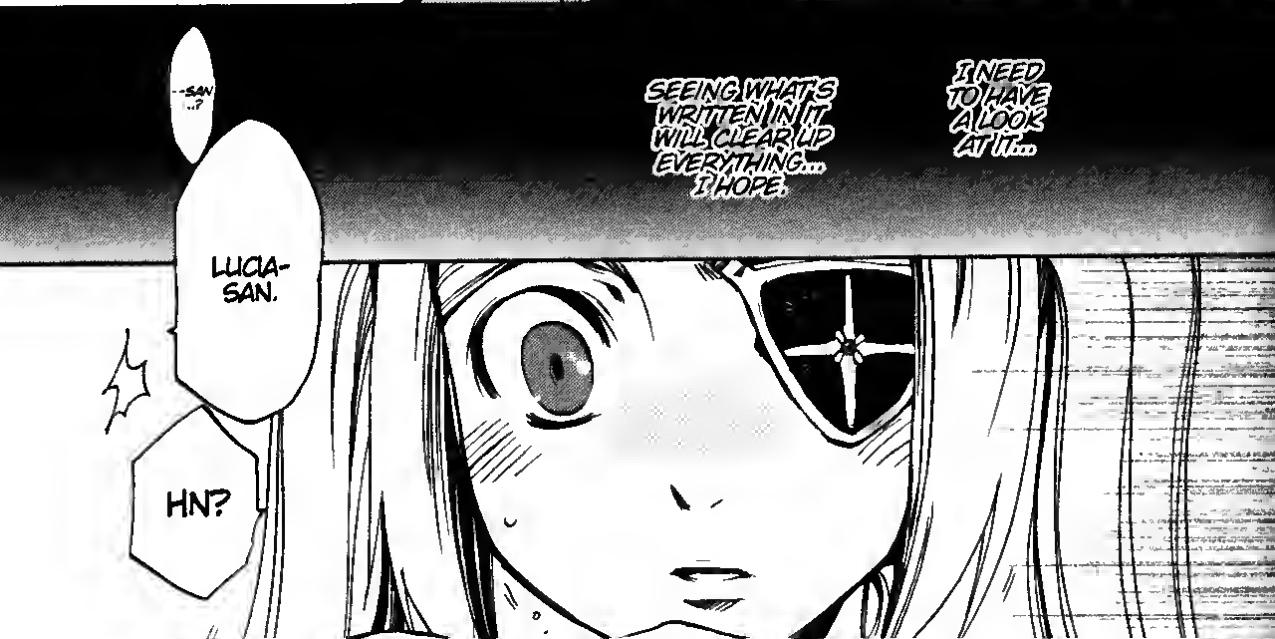

WHAT COULD BE IN THAT LETTER...?
LLICIA, WAIT. DO NOT OPEN THE LETTER.
?

SHE'S ACTING ALMOST LIKE A MOTHER.

SIGH
HE IS SUCH A MOTHER HEN.
.....

I WILL INSPECT IT IMMEDIATELY UPON OUR RETURN HOME.
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT CONTAINS SOME SORT OF UNPLEASANT SPELL AS A TRAP.

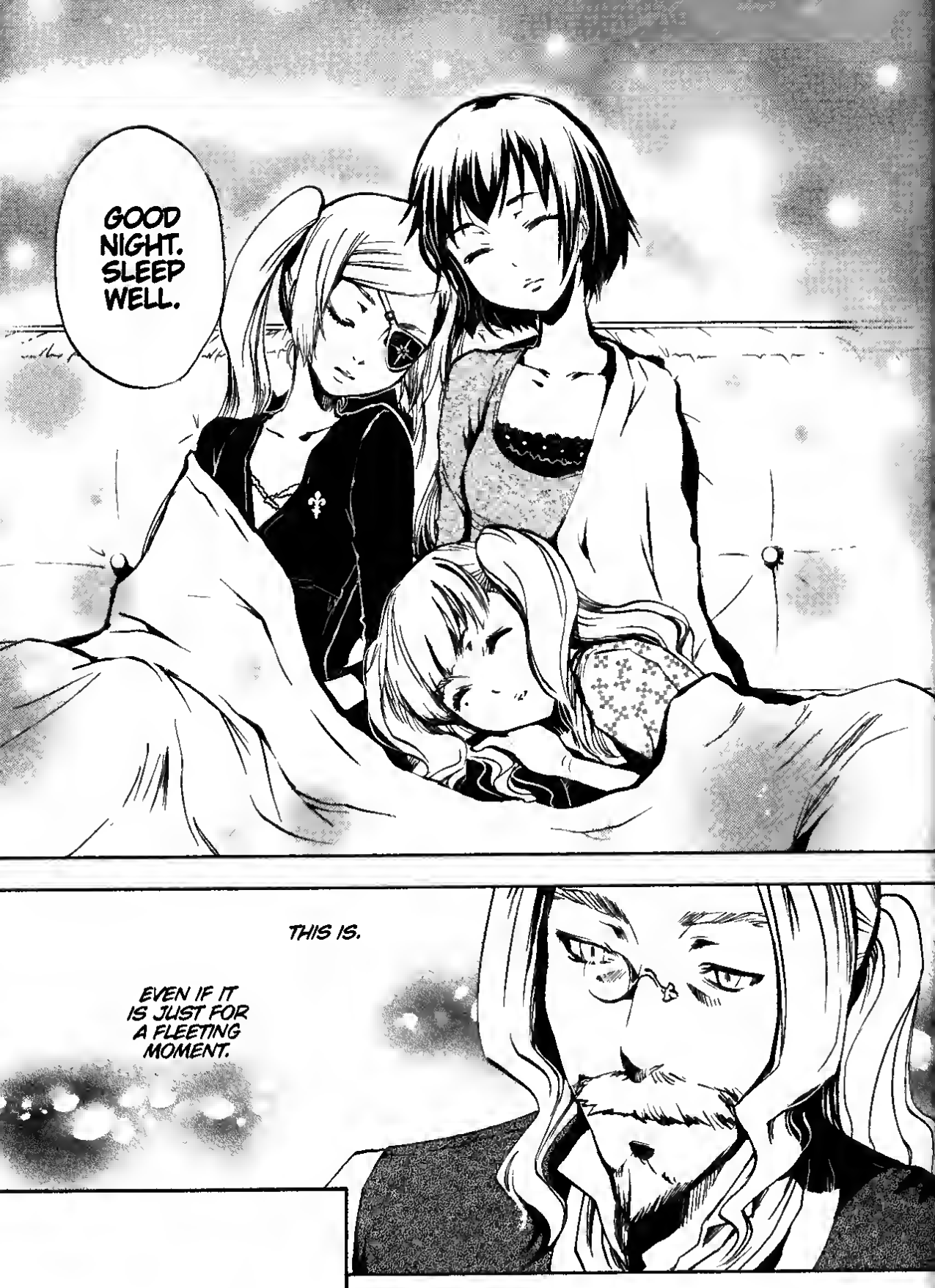

ABOUT THAT LETTER, THOUGH...
WHY'D THAT LUNATIC EVEN BOTHER SENDING ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SEEMS KINDA ROUND-ABOUT.
MAYBE IT'S GOT SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IN IT...?
NO... IT COULDN'T... COULD IT?


I NEED TO HAVE A LOOK AT IT...
SEEING WHAT'S WRITTEN IN IT WILL CLEAR UP EVERYTHING... I HOPE.
--SAN ..?
LUCIA-SAN.
HN?

HOW ARE YOU FEELING? TIRED?
I MADE US TEA. WANT SOME?
O-OH... UH, SURE.
OKAY THEN...
SHF
SPEAKING OF BEING TIRED, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN BED? SCHOOL'S EARLY...
A LITTLE...
OH...
WE HAVE TOMORROW OFF!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? AREN'T YOU GOING TO SLEEP
NAH... I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO BED YET.
.....
TUG
?!

I'LL JUST LET YOU REST AGAINST MY SHOULDER.
!!
WHAT THE HELL...?!
OH! WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE TOO, LOLA-CHAN?
HUH?!
STILL, YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO MUCH, LUCIA-SAN. YOU'LL GET SICK.
SH-SHUT UP! I DON'T CARE!
LUCIA, YOU LOOK ADORABLE LIKE THAT. LIKE A LITTLE KID!
HEE HEE
WHEW...
KCHIK
HN...?
APOLOGIES FOR THE LONG WAIT, EVERYONE...

THIS CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMOR-ROW.
NEVER-MIND TRAPS OR SPELLS...
TP
SIGH
THIS LETTER DID NOT EVEN CONTAIN ANY WORDS. IT'S JUST BLANK PAPER.
BUT RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.


GOOD NIGHT. SLEEP WELL.
THIS IS.
EVEN IF IT IS JUST FOR A FLEETING MOMENT.

!
FLAP
FLAP
SLUMP
TWITCH

WELCOME BACK, AION-SAMA.
SHF

ALL THAT REMAINS ...
IS TO WAIT FOR *THE DAY.*
WHAT ...?!
SNEER
EXCEL-LENT...

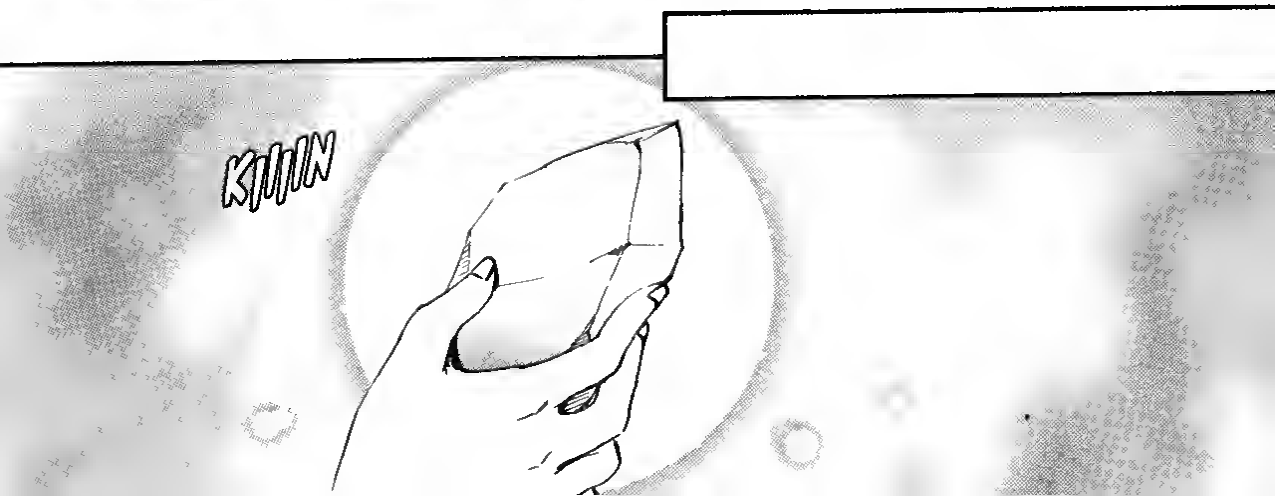
REALLY?!
IT'S BLANK...?!
?!
IT'S JUST A PLAIN SHEET OF PAPER
WOW. HE'S RIGHT...
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...
PMP
YES. IT IS, AS YOU CAN SEE, BLANK.
?!
TWITCH

AAAH ...!
AH...
LUCIA-SAN...?
?!
LUCIA!
VWEEP
?!
WORDS ...?!
GLOW

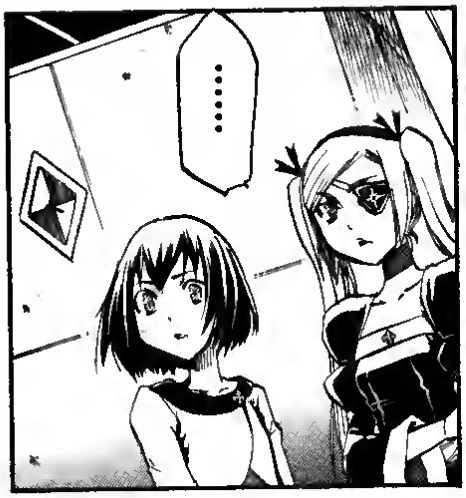
ON THE NIGHT WHEN FRAGMENTS FALL FROM THE DAWN STAR...
THE SLUMBERING GATE SHALL BE AWOKEN BY THE KEY...
GUIDING ME TO THE WORLD THAT SHALL BE MINE.
FP
NGH...
LUCIA!
FWP

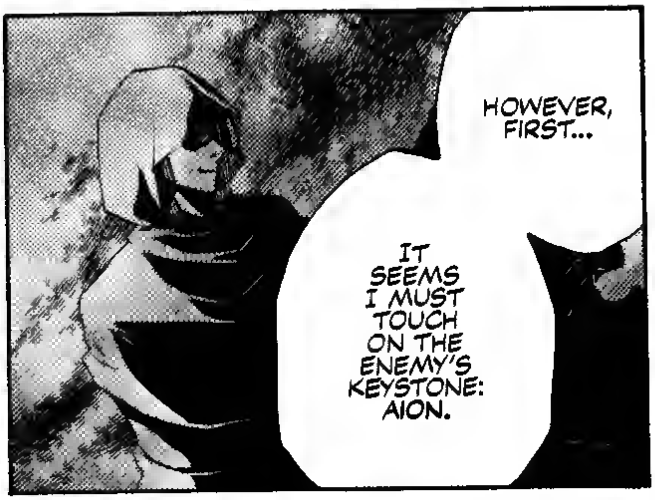
GATES...
KEYS...?
WHAT IS HE GOING ON ABOUT...?
!
HAH!
NH...
THE WORDS VANISHED ...
PFF

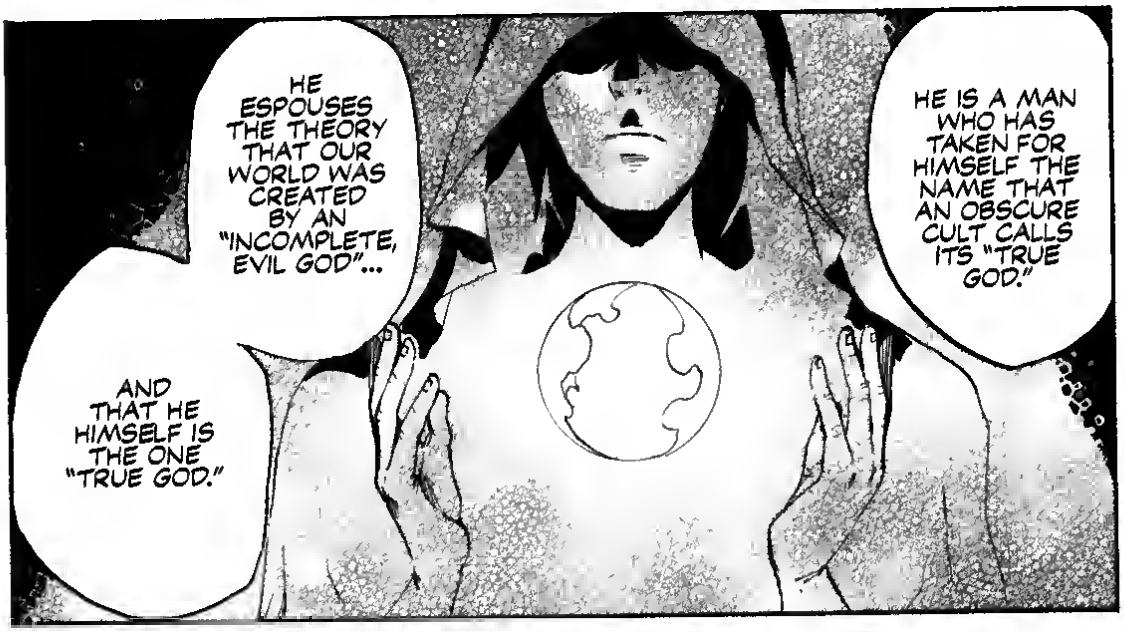
LOLA-CHAN!
GRANDPA WOULD KNOW!!
TMP


KIIIN

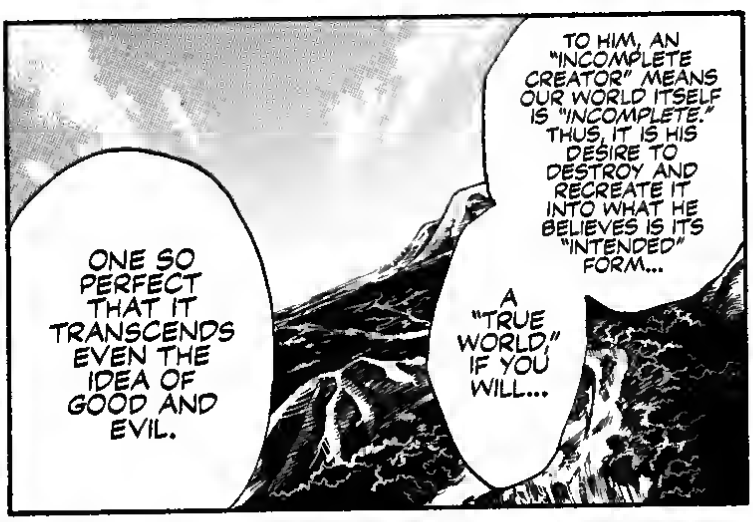
I KNOW.
SENSEI...
.....
FFH
I HAVE WATCHED THROUGH LOLA'S EYES, AND CONFIRMED EVERYTHING.
IT SEEMS YOU ARE THE ONES NOW IN NEED OF THAT KNOWLEDGE.
ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS I CHOSE TO SEAL MY BODY IN CRYSTAL AND REMAIN IN THIS WORLD AS A SPIRIT...
WAS SO THAT I COULD SOMEDAY PASS THIS KNOWLEDGE ON TO THOSE WHO WOULD NEED IT.


.....

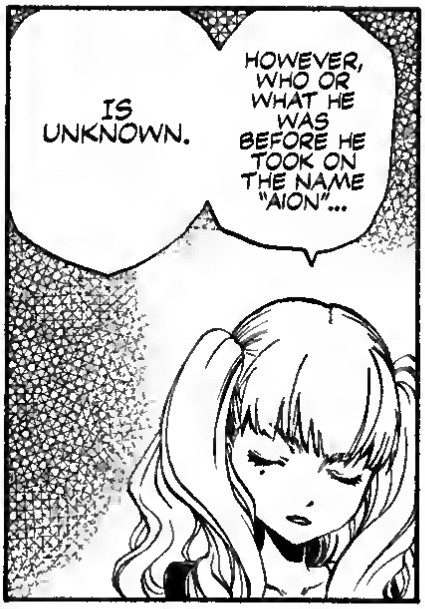

HOWEVER, FIRST...
IT SEEMS I MUST TOUCH ON THE ENEMY'S KEYSTONE: AION.


HE ESPOUSES THE THEORY THAT OUR WORLD WAS CREATED BY AN "INCOMPLETE, EVIL GOD"...
HE IS A MAN WHO HAS TAKEN FOR HIMSELF THE NAME THAT AN OBSCURE CULT CALLS ITS "TRUE GOD."
AND THAT HE HIMSELF IS THE ONE "TRUE GOD."

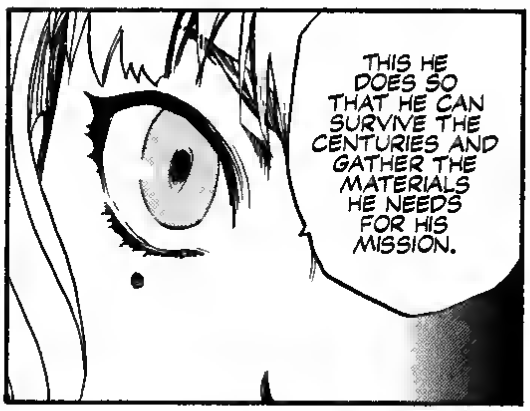
.....

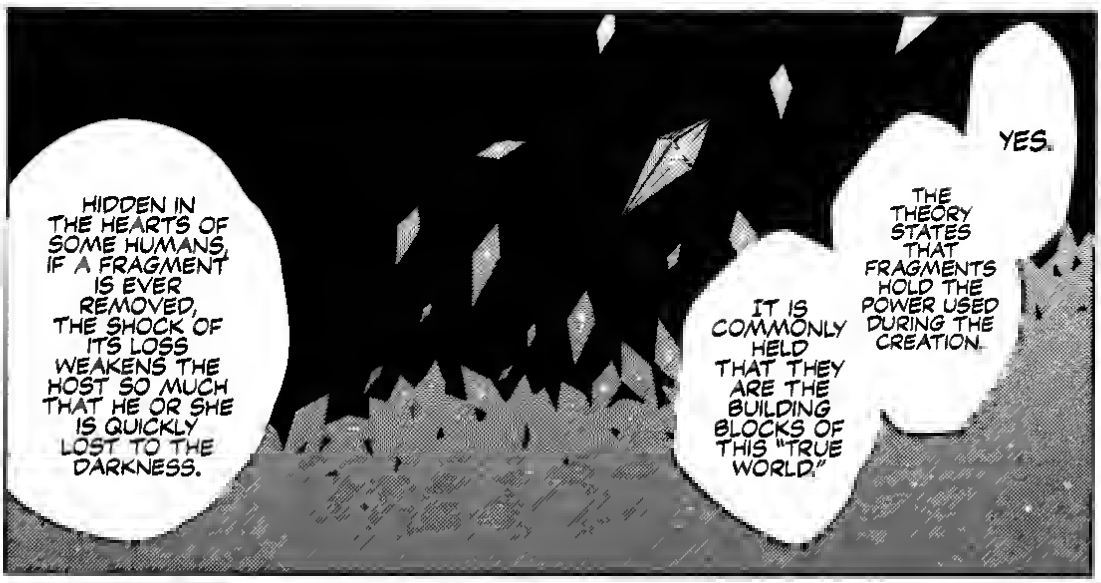

TO HIM, AN "INCOMPLETE CREATOR" MEANS OUR WORLD ITSELF IS "INCOMPLETE." THUS, IT IS HIS DESIRE TO DESTROY AND RECREATE IT INTO WHAT HE BELIEVES IS ITS "INTENDED" FORM...
A "TRUE WORLD," IF YOU WILL...
ONE SO PERFECT THAT IT TRANSCENDS EVEN THE IDEA OF GOOD AND EVIL.

PERHAPS HE WAS ONCE A SORCERER.
OR PERHAPS HE WAS ONCE A KING LOST TO HIS LUST FOR POWER.
OR PERHAPS HE WAS SOMETHING ELSE. WE DON'T KNOW. NOW, HOWEVER, HE IS LIKE ME, A SPIRIT MOVING FROM BODY TO BODY AS NECESSARY.


HOWEVER, WHO OR WHAT HE WAS BEFORE HE TOOK ON THE NAME "AION"...
IS UNKNOWN.

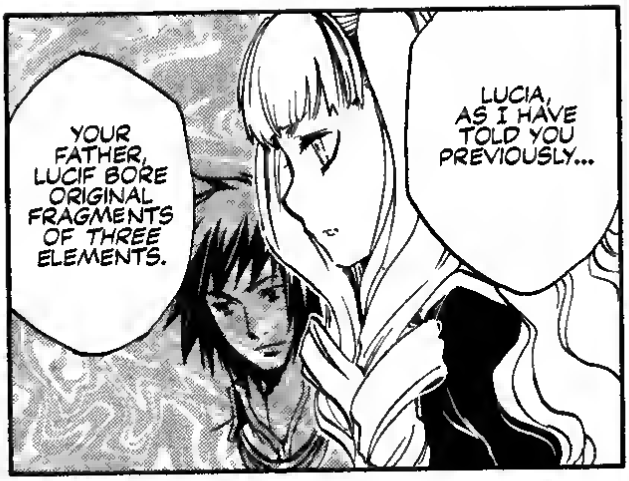
"MATERIALS"...?
DO YOU MEAN FRAGMENTS?

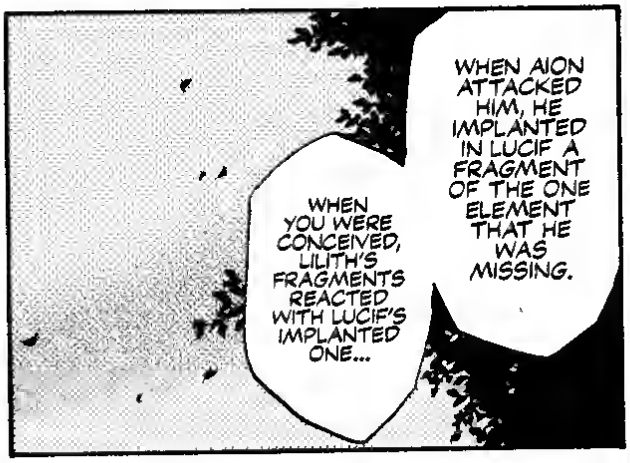

THIS HE DOES SO THAT HE CAN SURVIVE THE CENTURIES AND GATHER THE MATERIALS HE NEEDS FOR HIS MISSION.

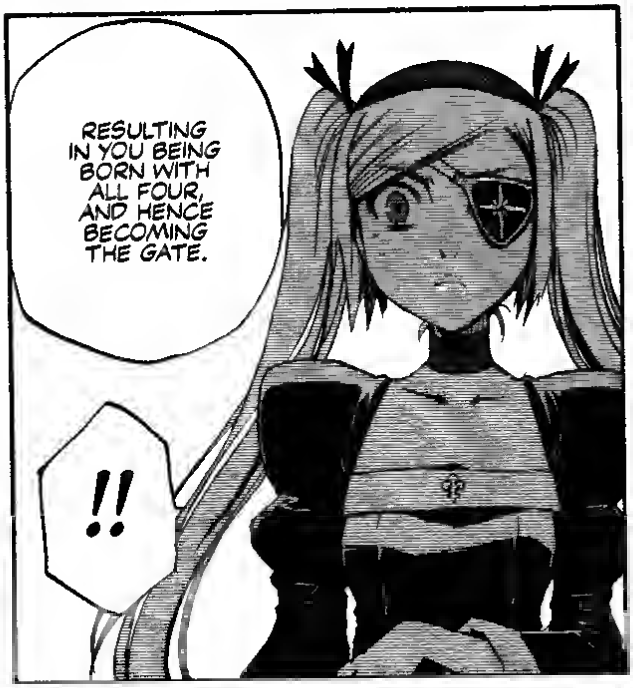

YES.
THE THEORY STATES THAT FRAGMENTS HOLD THE POWER USED DURING THE CREATION.
IT IS COMMONLY HELD THAT THEY ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THIS "TRUE WORLD."
HIDDEN IN THE HEARTS OF SOME HUMANS, IF A FRAGMENT IS EVER REMOVED, THE SHOCK OF ITS LOSS WEAKENS THE HOST SO MUCH THAT HE OR SHE IS QUICKLY LOST TO THE DARKNESS.

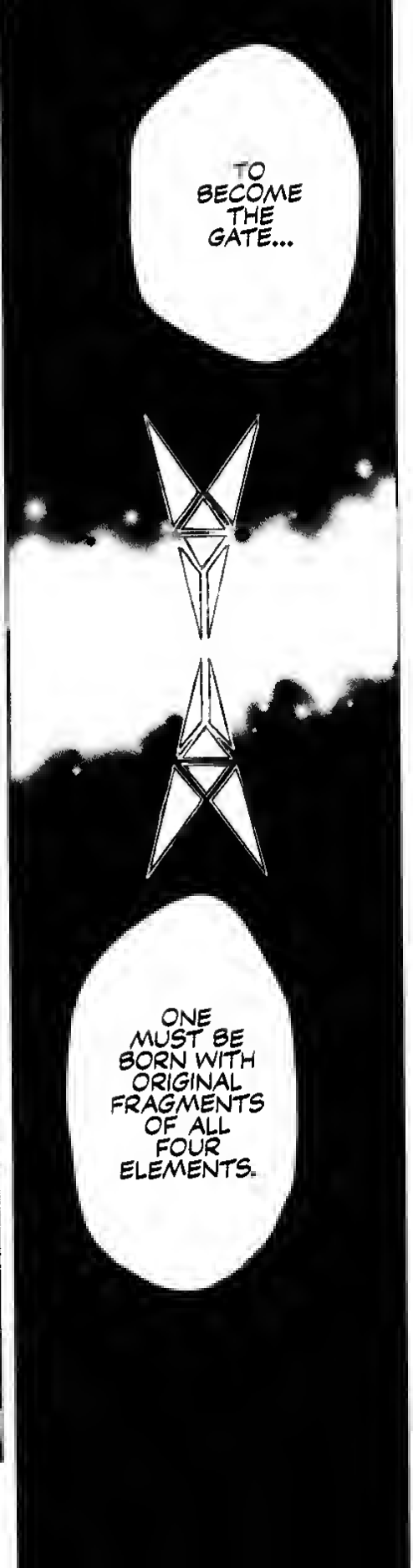
ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FRAGMENTS TO HUNTERS LIKE AION...
AND HAVE FALLEN INTO THE DARKNESS WILL BECOME VIRUSES, SOONER OR LATER.
YOU ALL HAVE SEEN ONES SO LOST. YOU CALL THEM VIRUSES.
THUS THEY ARE ONLY VISIBLE TO ONES WHOM THEY USED TO BE LIKE: PEOPLE WITH VISION.
BUT FRAGMENTS ARE NOT THE ONLY THING THAT AION AND HIS SERVANTS DESIRE.
THEY ALSO WANT TWO THINGS JUST AS BADLY...
THE GATE AND THE KEY. THE TWO THINGS WHICH ARE SAID TO LEAD THE WAY TO THE "TRUE WORLD."
IN OTHER WORDS...

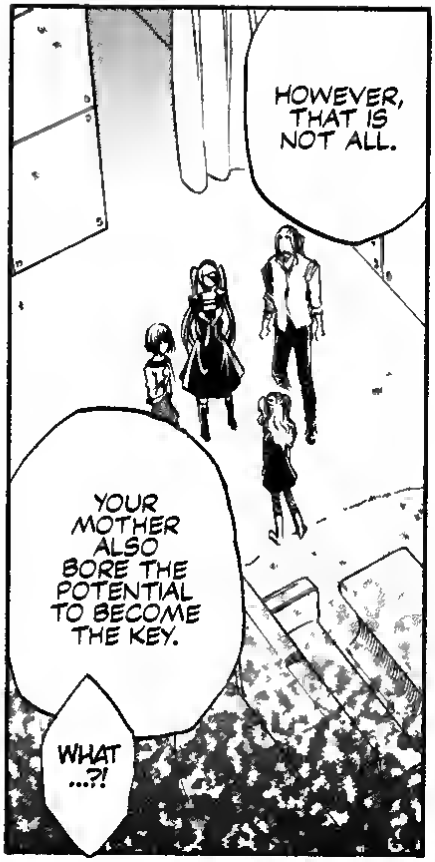
THE PAIR OF YOU. LUCIA AND SUMIRE...
YOU ARE THE GATE AND THE KEY.
WHAT ...?
.....!!
SHVR

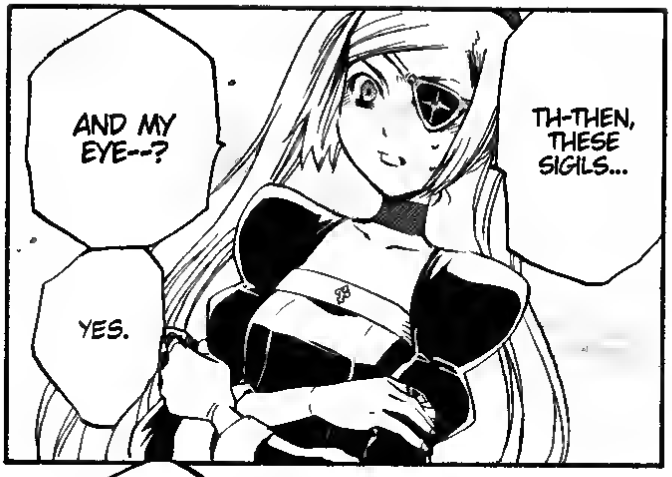

LUCIA, AS I HAVE TOLD YOU PREVIOUSLY...
YOUR FATHER, LUCIF BORE ORIGINAL FRAGMENTS OF THREE ELEMENTS.

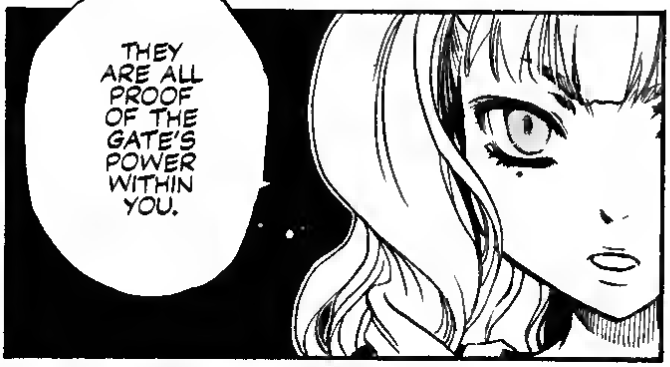

WHEN AION ATTACKED HIM, HE IMPLANTED IN LUCIF A FRAGMENT OF THE ONE ELEMENT THAT HE WAS MISSING.
WHEN YOU WERE CONCEIVED, LILITH'S FRAGMENTS REACTED WITH LUCIF'S IMPLANTED ONE...


RESULTING IN YOU BEING BORN WITH ALL FOUR, AND HENCE BECOMING THE GATE.
!!


TO BECOME THE GATE...
ONE MUST BE BORN WITH ORIGINAL FRAGMENTS OF ALL FOUR ELEMENTS.


HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT ALL.
YOUR MOTHER ALSO BORE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE KEY.
WHAT ...?!


TH-THEN, THESE SIGILS...
AND MY EYE--?
YES.


THEY ARE ALL PROOF OF THE GATE'S POWER WITHIN YOU.

SOMEONE WHO WAS MORE PURE AND INNOCENT THAN ANY OTHER.
.....?

HOWEVER, WHEN LILITH DIED...
THAT POWER MOVED NOT TO YOU, BUT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

IN OTHER WORDS, A NEWBORN BABE. A CHILD BORN WITH THE POTENTIAL...
AND BORN AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THAT LILITH DIED, BECAME THE NEW KEY.

THAT CHILD...
WAS YOU...
SUMIRE.
HUH ...?!
THE UNUSUAL SIGIL YOU HAVE ON YOUR COLLARBONE IS THE SIGN OF THE KEY.
I AM SURE YOU NOTICED, NACHASH...
THAT LILITH BORE A SIMILAR ONE.
IT...
CAME TO ME?
MOTHER'S POWER...
IS IN YOU, NOW...?

.....
MOST LIKELY...
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POWERS OR SIGILS AT ALL UNTIL I MET LUCIA-SAN!
BUT... BUT THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
IT IS LUCIA'S HEIRLOOM...
FROM HER MOTHER.
THE BROOCH WAS WHAT TRIGGERED YOUR CHANGE.
LILITH ALSO HAD THE POWER OF THE BER-SERKER.
THOUGH NOT AS STRONG AS SUMIRE'S ...
.....
SENSEI?
BUT...
THEN WHAT ABOUT MY BER-SERKER POWERS?!

I DOUBT YOU EVER SAW HER USE THEM THOUGH, NACHASH.
.....
UN-BELIEV-ABLE...
THEN...
IF MY BERSERKER POWERS ARE PART OF BEING THE KEY...
WHAT IS IT THAT THE KEY IS SUPPOSED TO DO?
WELL ...
NGK ...?!

I THINK...
YOU HAVE SAID QUITE ENOUGH.
SLUMP
SLUMP
HF
THE MORE YOU PRATTLE ON ABOUT WHAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, THE MORE YOU'RE A DANGER TO YOURSELF...
AND TO OTHERS.
HEE HEE

AGH ...!
WHAT... ARE YOU... ?!
DROP
KRASH
STOP ...!!
LOLA-CHAN!
SENSEI ...?!
AH...!
WSH

.....
GRANDPA ...?
LOLA...?!
ARE YOU OKAY ?
GRAND-PA?
THE CONNEC-TION...
MUMBLE
IS ALL PITCH-BLACK...
MUMBLE
SKF
LAYLA...
GRANDPA...
I CAN'T REACH EITHER OF THEM.
?
HANG IN THERE, LOLA...
NO...

PLINK
LOLA ?!
GRANDPA! ANSWER ME!
WSH
NO...!
C'MON!
SUMIRE, YOU WAIT HERE!
LOLA ?!
HUH ...?
WUP
I DON'T WANNA BE LEFT ALL ALONE!!
TP TP TP TP
NO!! NO, NO, NO!!
TMP TMP TMP
. . . .

SIGH
GLANCE
STOMP
STOMP
WHY ON EARTH WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD HE HAVE...?
"AION," HUH...?

IS IT REALLY...
RSTL
THAT MUCH OF A PARADISE ?!
IS THAT "TRUE WORLD" THING REALLY SO GREAT...?
IS IT SO IMPORTANT...
THAT YOU CAN DESTROY EVERYTHING PRECIOUS TO ME AND LUCIA-SAN, AND EVERYONE...
AND STILL SAY IT WAS WORTH IT?!
WAFT
GRNCH
IT CAN'T BE!! I'LL NEVER LET YOU...

I...

KNOW THIS SCENT.

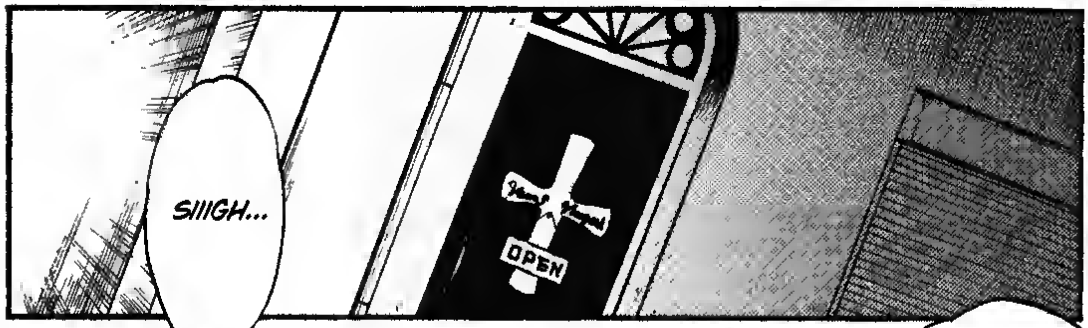
HOW COULD I EVER FORGET...

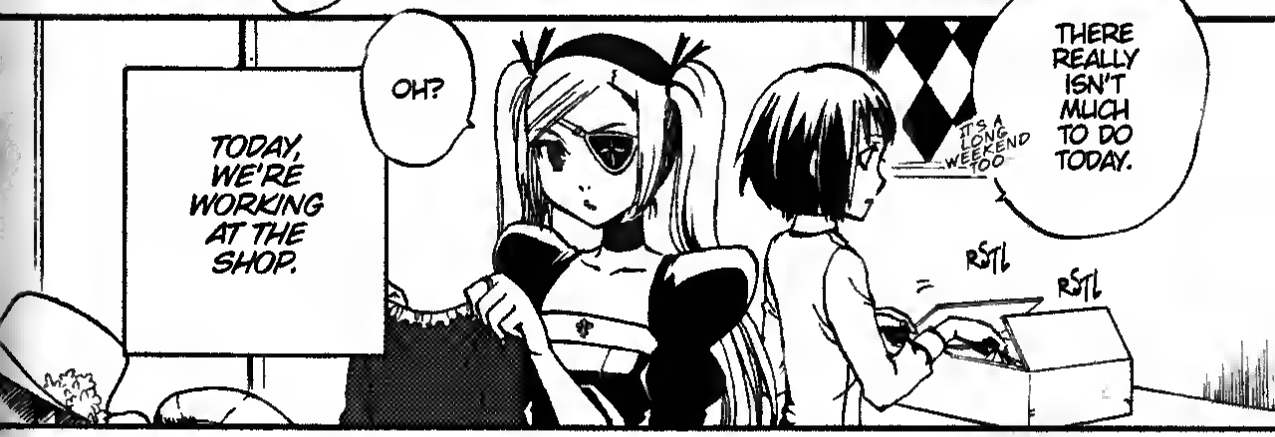
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7!!

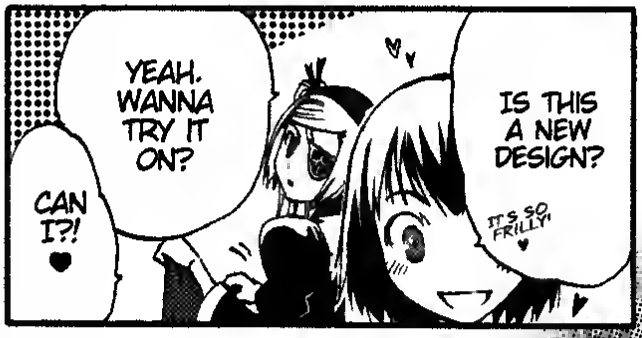
アイオーンからの手紙で
次々に明らかになっていく
少女達を取り巻く因縁
AION'S LETTER...
DOES THAT LETTER...
HAVE SOME-THING?
THE DAY MOTHER DIED?!
MY BIRTHDAY...
WILL ALWAYS BE ALONE.
!!
BRINGS TO LIGHT MANY MORE THREADS OF FATE BOUND ABOUT THE GIRLS!
お互いを思い遣るも
衝突して離れてしまった心と心は
I HATE YOU!!
I...
HARSH WORDS DRIVE THEIR HEARTS APART...
試練を
乗り越える事で
確かな絆へと
成長する
BUT BEING STUCK ALL ALONE...
BUT BY OVER-COMING THESE TRIALS TOGETH-ER...
DON'T LIKE BEING SCARED.
I REALLY HATE IT.
STRONG BONDS OF FRIEND-SHIP WILL BE FORGED!
I HATE IT WAY MORE !!

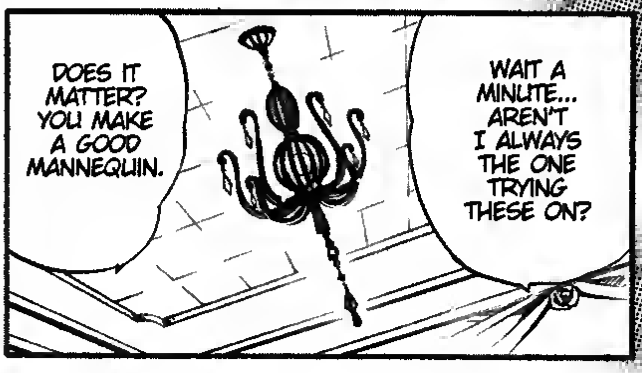
想い出の場所で独り涙するスミレ
SUMIRE, CRYING ALONE IN A PLACE OF PRECIOUS MEMORIES...
IT'S REALLY STARTED TO COME DOWN, HASN'T IT?
OH, HEY, SUMIRE-CHAN!
AAAH...
NNH...
WAAAAAH...!
彼女を待ち受ける運命とは!?
WHAT FATE AWAITS HER?!
ルチアの母・リリスと同じ力を持つ
BEARS THE SAME POWERS AS LUCIA'S MOTHER, LILITH.
I KNOW IT'S PROBABLY NOT A VERY SENSITIVE THING TO ASK...
BUT I WANT TO KNOW.
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ONE PERSON WHO HAD POWERS LIKE MINE.
A NEW FLAVOR OF DARK FANTASY!
Vemus Versus Virus
ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイラス
VOLUME 7 ON SALE FALL 2009!!
第7巻
MATCH FOR ME

Extra Piece: BITTER. MISCONCEPTIONS.









HM?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY WEARING SOMETHING ELSE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN?
MUMBLE
Y'KNOW...
GLANCE
.....
SHIVER
I KNOW!
SPARKLE
.....
BAD FEELING
SHIVER
BERSERKER MODE
NOW JUST HOLD STILL.
TK
ZAK
!!!
W-WAIT...! STOP...
I MEAN, YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING THINGS TOGETHER FOR ME. NOW IT'S MY TURN!
HUH?!
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME PUT TOGETHER AN OUTFIT FOR YOU?
C'MON! IT'LL BE FUN! ♪
BUT... BUT...

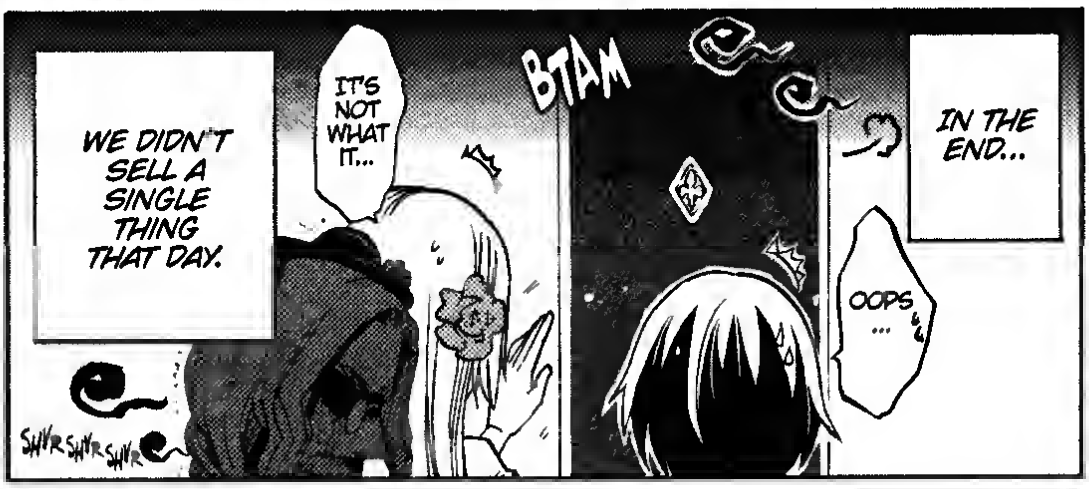
PERFECT!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D LOOKED SO GOOD IN THESE KIND OF CLOTHES!
EEE!
I...I NEVER LOOK GOOD IN WHITE AND PINK AND, UH, FRILLY STUFF...
NO, NO!
YOU LOOK GREAT! HONEST!
FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET
SUSPICIOUS FIDGETING
B-BUT... IT DOESN'T WORK WITH MY EYEPATCH!
AND BESIDES... I'D BE OVERLAPPING WITH YOUR STYLE!
ADULT CONCERNS
OH...
WELL, IN THAT CASE...

HOW ABOUT I DO THIS?
ばっ
ばん

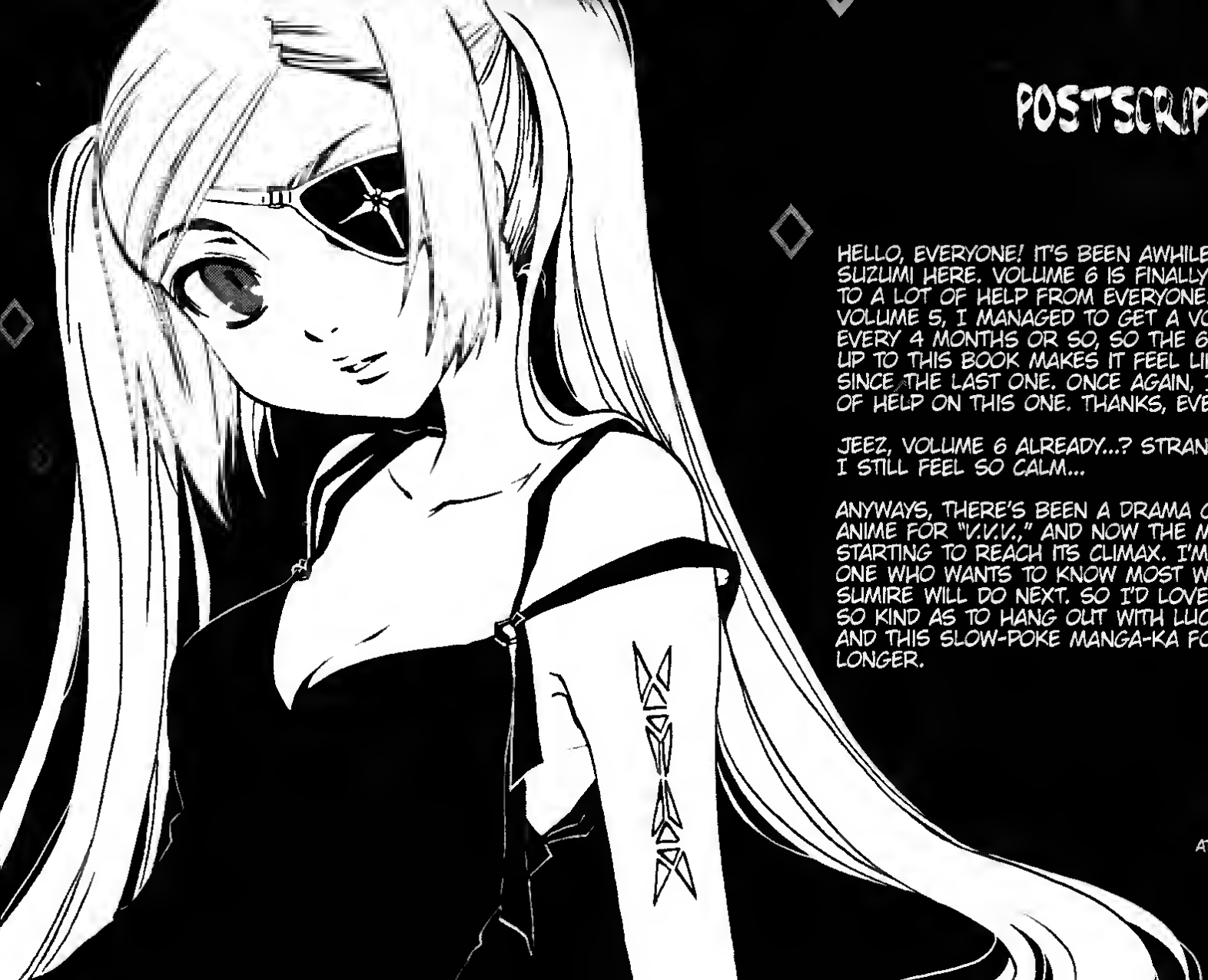
I AM HEARING A LOT OF NOISE. IS SOMETHING...
LUCIA? SUMIRE-KUN?
?!
KACHA
CHANGING IT UP LIKE THIS EVERY NOW AND AGAIN IS A GOOD IDEA! I THINK OUR CUSTOMERS WILL LIKE IT TOO!
SEE?
NOW WE DON'T OVERLAP AT ALL!
O-OH... UM... STILL...
I'D FEEL A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE IN MY OTHER OUTFIT...
SQUIRM
WIGGLE WIGGLE

LUCIA...?
YOUR OUTFIT... YOU'VE CHANGED...
THOUGH I MUST SAY YOU LOOK LOVELY.
NAHASHI...
SPARKLE
URK
?!
DIDN'T YOU??
YOU SAW ME...
ROMEL
ROMEL
ROMEL
ROMEL
ROMEL

OOH!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A STORE HERE!
WANNA TAKE A LOOK INSIDE?
KCHIK
Y!! DOOOOM
CUSTOMER
CUSTOMER


WE DIDN'T SELL A SINGLE THING THAT DAY.
IT'S NOT WHAT IT...
SHVR SHVR SHVR
BTAM
IN THE END...
OOPS...

END



POSTSCRIPT

HELLO, EVERYONE! IT'S BEEN AWHILE! SUZUMI HERE. VOLUME 6 IS FINALLY OUT, THANKS TO A LOT OF HELP FROM EVERYONE. UP UNTIL VOLUME 5, I MANAGED TO GET A VOLUME OUT EVERY 4 MONTHS OR SO, SO THE 6-MONTH GAP UP TO THIS BOOK MAKES IT FEEL LIKE FOREVER SINCE THE LAST ONE. ONCE AGAIN, I GOT A LOT OF HELP ON THIS ONE. THANKS, EVERYONE!

JEEZ, VOLUME 6 ALREADY...? STRANGELY, I STILL FEEL SO CALM...

ANYWAYS, THERE'S BEEN A DRAMA CD AND AN ANIME FOR "V.V.V.," AND NOW THE MANGA IS STARTING TO REACH ITS CLIMAX. I'M PROBABLY THE ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW MOST WHAT LUCIA AND SUMIRE WILL DO NEXT. SO I'D LOVE IT IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO HANG OUT WITH LUCIA, SUMIRE AND THIS SLOW-POKE MANGA-KA FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

2007.11.

鈴見敦

ATSUSHI SUZUMI